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Off-duty policeman killed in terror attack

BILL HUTMAN and EVELYN GORDON

A PALESTINIAN terrorist yesterday shot and killed an off-duty policeman and moderately wounded his wife in a toy store in the village of Bidiya, near Ariel, the police and army spokesmen said.

The couple's 18-month-old son, who was with them, was not injured, but was still kept for observation at the The Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus in Petah Tikva.

First-Sgt. Meir Alush and his wife Nitza, of Ariel, had gone to the store, despite regulations forbidding off-duty policemen from frequenting stores in Palestinian villages and towns, the police spokesman said.

Alush, 40, who served in the Samaria District Traffic Police, was pronounced dead at the scene. He is to be buried today in Binyamina, where his parents live.

"We are shutting down all the stores in this stretch, and a curfew has been placed on Bidiya," said OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan. "We want to make it clear that life will not continue as normal after such a murder."

The army searched the area, and a handful of people were detained, but they were apparently witnesses. Investigators hoped they might lead them to the terrorist, security sources said.

The terrorist did not wear a mask.

The couple entered Mustafa's Toy Store, one of a number of stores along the stretch of the Trans-Samaria Highway, that passes directly through Bidiya, at about 11:30 a.m., police sources said.

A few minutes later, the terrorist entered and fired his pistol first at Alush, and then at his wife, from a distance of several meters. He apparently fired four or five times.

An unnamed eyewitness, interviewed on Arutz 7, said that the terrorists, speeding at 100 kph-110 kph, had passed several cars before stopping at the store. He said three men got out of the car and went into the store. One of them, wearing a green shirt, was armed with a pistol; the other two carried Kalashnikov assault rifles.

Alush, in civilian clothes, was not carrying his police-issued weapon, nor was it found in his car, the police spokesman said.

Nitza Alush, 35, blood dripping from a graze on her chest, ran out of the store holding her son and called for help. An Ariel resident driving by stopped and took them to the settlement.

(Continued on Page 2)

Five killed in Sderot accident

FIVE people, one of them a two-year-old boy, were killed yesterday evening in Sderot, when the driver of a car apparently failed to yield the right of way to a semi-trailer at an intersection.

The truck hit the car with enough force to send it flying several dozen meters, and it hit Karen Bohadna - who was pushing her two children, five and two, in a stroller - before landing in a ditch. David Bohadna, two, was killed on the spot; his mother was lightly injured and his brother seriously injured. The car's four passengers: Esther Shefret, 61; Perla Alkabetz, 60; Shlomo Alkabetz, 68; and his wife Esther, 64, were killed. The driver of the car, Jacques Alkabetz, was injured. The car's occupants, who are all related, were en route to a family celebration.

The truck driver's license was suspended and police are investigating. (Tim)

'New York Times'

The New York Times Weekly Review section does not appear with today's paper due to technical problems. We apologize for the inconvenience.



Prime minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu, Tsomet's Rafael Eitan on his right, and Shas's Raphael Pinhasi sign the coalition agreement yesterday, as the Likud's Michael Eitan looks on. (Sara Harnet)

Netanyahu plays hardball with Likud MKs

COMMENT SARAH HONIG

THIS coalition-formation process is unlike any we have seen, and not only regarding the manner in which the partner parties were handled.

The most unusual feature is the way members of the prime minister-elect's own party are being treated.

Coalition-formation time has without exception been the time for ambitious demands, personal conflicts, and umbrage. This is true of all sides of the political spectrum.

But these problems most often center around minor political operators with exaggerated expectations. Party higher-ups are generally well taken care of. This is not necessarily because too much love is lost between them and the person forming the government, but is due to simple expediency. It doesn't pay to leave a powerful figure totally outside, where he could be a loose cannon.

Yet such considerations do not seem to carry much weight with Binyamin Netanyahu, who had no trouble yesterday offering humiliating crumbs to the likes of Ariel Sharon, Ze'ev Begin, Dan Meridor, and Moshe Katsav.

One explanation is that this is the outcome of his being the first prime minister to be elected directly. Yet when it came to negotiating with likely coalition partners, the new system did not do away with the time-honored haggling and cliffhanging. Indeed, Netanyahu had to pay through the nose, and so dearly that the Likud was largely left with what everyone else rejected. But this still cannot account for everything which befell the Likud top echelon.

Even before the coalition bargaining was over, Netanyahu knew he would deprive his party of some of the biggest raisins in the cake and that this would create discontent. In other words, he denied his party more portfolios than the coalition partners elicited from him. (Continued on Page 4)

Frenkel named finance minister

SARAH HONIG

THE new finance minister will be Bank of Israel Governor Ya'acov Frenkel and attorney Ya'acov Ne'eman will be the new justice minister, prime minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu decided yesterday. But while these two outsider professionals were given coveted cabinet seats, the Likud's foremost politicians - Ariel Sharon, Dan Meridor, Ze'ev Begin, and Moshe Katsav - might be left out of the government.

By late last night it did not appear that any of the four would settle for what was being offered. The Likud was in an uproar and many spoke of a political earthquake whose outcome cannot be predicted.

Each of the disappointed four met separately with Netanyahu yesterday and Sharon and Meridor both asked for either Finance or Defense. Both were told the jobs were already assigned to others - Defense to political newcomer Yitzhak Mordechai and Finance to Frenkel.

Sharon was offered Housing and refused. His closest cronies said last night he is determined not to enter the government and feels deeply slighted by the Netanyahu, the man he was so instrumental in helping.

Netanyahu said he would keep the Housing portfolio in trust for Sharon, but those close to Sharon noted this had not been told him to his face. He would have rejected it outright, they said, since he has no intention of coming back for the Housing portfolio.

Meridor went a step further. When he was told he could have neither of the two portfolios he asked for, he all but implored Netanyahu to let him at least have his old Justice portfolio back. Thus he would not appear to have been demoted.

But Netanyahu announced that this job was already assigned to Ne'eman. When Meridor was told (Continued on Page 4)

Religious issues delay coalition deal

SARAH HONIG and DAVID MAKOVSKY

BY midnight last night it was still unclear whether prime minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu would be able to present his government to the Knesset today, and whether he even has a parliamentary majority.

Yisrael Ba'aliya continued to play hard to get and United Torah Judaism balked and broke off negotiations.

Meanwhile, coalition agreements were signed yesterday with Shas, the National Religious Party, and The Third Way. However, these parties and the Likud give Netanyahu only 55 MKs. Unless he adds YB's seven MKs to the total, the UTJ's four MKs do not suffice - but if YB is in, the UTJ becomes dispensable.

The coalition guidelines Netanyahu intends to present to the Knesset call for Israel to retain sovereignty over the Golan Heights in any negotiations with Syria. They express opposition to a Palestinian state, the return of Palestinian refugees to the territories, and any undermining of Israel's undivided, eternal and "exclusive sovereignty" over Jerusalem.

Moreover, the guidelines say the negotiations with the Palestinian Authority on the final disposition of the territories is contingent upon the PA living up to its commitments. In contrast, there is no mention of Israel adhering to commitments made by previous governments and there is also no mention of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the cornerstone of peacemaking for previous governments, including the Madrid peace conference.

It also states that the government will permit the IDF and security forces "to act against the threat of terrorism everywhere."

At the signing ceremony with Shas and the NRP yesterday, Netanyahu reiterated his intention to present his government to the Knesset today, but admitted that

"much work is left to be done with Yisrael Ba'aliya."

Realizing its pivotal position, YB continued pressing Netanyahu. Despite winning two ministerial appointments - Industry and Trade for Natan Sharansky and a padded Absorption portfolio for Yuli Edelstein - YB objected to the guidelines on religious affairs.

These same guidelines were ostensibly what provoked UTJ. Its new MK, Meir Porush, said they did not go far enough, while Sharansky insisted they went way too far.

UTJ is angry about the rejection of some of its specific requests, such as those regarding archeological digs in ancient grave sites, and the failure to restore the status quo on religious affairs that prevailed prior to Labor's 1992 victory. UTJ sees no way of redressing any of its grievances, because the Third Way will not support its religious legislation and the government is not likely to sponsor it. Thus UTJ will have no majority for its bills.

In addition, Yisrael Ba'aliya wants total freedom to vote its conscience on religious issues, cutting further into any support the UTJ can expect.

UTJ has also been unable to assert its claim to the Housing portfolio and does not want a Likud minister at the helm of a ministry it considers its own. All the above was aggravated last night by an unexpected demand, attributed to Lithuanian haredi leader Rabbi Eliezer Schach, to have UTJ allot the Religious Affairs portfolio.

At the other extreme of the religious issue, YB sees itself as representing the interests of new immigrants, many of whom are unmarried and who are beset by halachic problems. Thus YB wants to secure non-religious burials and civil marriages. While (Continued on Page 2)

Early results show Yeltsin, Zyuganov will go to second round in Russian poll

MOSCOW (Reuter) - President Boris Yeltsin led the count in the first results from Russia's presidential election yesterday, doing surprisingly well in regions in the Far East where Communists and nationalists traditionally shine.

After seven percent of votes had been counted, Yeltsin led with 32.3 percent and Communist challenger Gennady Zyuganov was running second with 29.14%. Electoral Commission chairman Nikolai Ryabov said.

Gen. Alexander Lebed, a law-and-order campaigner, was third with 15.87%, followed by ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and economist Grigory Yavlinsky, 9.55% and 8.42% respectively.

The early results, heavily based on regions in the Far East and Siberia indicated no candidate would win the 50% needed for an outright victory.

Yeltsin and Zyuganov looked set to go into a head-on-head runoff ballot early next month.

The 65-year-old president also led in an exit poll quoted by CNN. He had 35%, Zyuganov was second with 29%, and Lebed third with 15%.

The early results, from areas where polling closed several hours earlier than in the rest of the vast country, represented only a fraction of the 105 million eligible voters.

But they signalled a strong start for Yeltsin in an election which will decide the future of democratic reforms.

Western governments and global financial markets were likely to welcome the early signs, because Yeltsin has vowed to push on with the market reforms he has made since he was elected in 1991, and Zyuganov is expected to slow them down or roll them back. Yeltsin's senior political aide Georgy Satarov said he was satis-

fied with the initial results, and that they fell into line with Kremlin forecasts.

"The satisfaction is not so much with the (exit poll) forecasts as with the fact that uncertainty is being reduced," Satarov told NTV commercial television.

The Primorsky region, including Vladivostok, which accounts for 1.4% of the total electorate, voted 29.57% for Yeltsin and 24.5% for Zyuganov, Interfax news agency said after all votes had been counted.

Voting in the Sakhalin, Kamchatka, and Magadan region in the Far East fell broadly into line with this.

The pro-government party Our Home is Russia scored only 3.5% in Primorsky in a parliamentary election last December, while Zyuganov's Communists scored 18.9%.

The total turnout was expected to be about 70%, slightly less than had been widely predicted.

Yeltsin campaign officials had

been worried by the lower-than-expected turnout, saying this might favor Zyuganov, because Communist voters are more disciplined.

Yeltsin has billed his re-election bid, in which he has benefited from blanket media coverage, as a crusade to stop a Communist comeback that would lead back to Soviet-style repression and economic stagnation.

Zyuganov, 51, whose party is already the largest in the State Duma lower chamber of parliament, says Yeltsin has let the country sink into an abyss of poverty and crime. He rejects charges that a victory would spell doom for democracy.

Lebed, whose campaign is dominated by calls for law and order, was a surprise third.

Yeltsin's campaign advisers have been hoping Lebed would finish third, because they believe he would be ready to swing his support behind Yeltsin for the second round.

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14th Knesset opens this afternoon

LIAT COLLINS

THE 14th Knesset is scheduled to open this afternoon with a trumpet fanfare and guard of honor, even if prime minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu fails to form his new government.

Shimon Peres will find himself in a new role, running the session from the speaker's chair. As the oldest MK, Peres, 72, will be sworn in by President Ezer Weizman and, as temporary speaker, will then swear in the other MKs.

If neither a new speaker nor a new government are announced at this session, Peres will continue as acting prime minister and Mofed leader Rehavam Ze'evi, the next oldest MK at age 70, will assume the speaker's post in the interim.

Yesterday, the Knesset corridors resounded with rumors about who will be appointed speaker. Among the names being bandied around were MKs Eliahu Ben-Elissar and MK Dan Tichon (both Likud), while women's groups have been pushing for the appointment of Naomi Blumenthal (Likud).

Over the years, Eli, who was a deputy speaker in the 13th Knesset but who failed to get reelected this time, is also being considered, and has strong support from the religious parties. But he can only be named if the Knesset passes the "Norwegian law," under which MKs named ministers vacate their seats, which would move Eli into the Knesset. Diplomats, judges, mayors and former presidents, MKs and ministers have been invited to attend the opening ceremony, which will be broadcast live on television and radio.

New MK Yona Yahav (Labor), however, has said he won't be sworn in today, as the session clashes with the Haifa University ceremony at which his wife is receiving her doctorate, which he had promised to attend. The new Knesset will have 11 party factions, up from 10 in the last Knesset. Yisrael Ba'aliya and The Third Way are the only new parties which succeeded in passing the electoral threshold. Of the 120 MKs, 40 are new.

Peres: This gov't will go down in annals of Jewish people

DAVID MAKOVSKY

THE outgoing Labor government will be remembered as one with historical and revolutionary achievements in the annals of the Jewish people, a somber Prime Minister Shimon Peres declared yesterday at the cabinet's farewell session.

"This was an excellent, just, and responsible government which attained a chapter in Jewish history, certainly a decisive chapter of Jewish history, and a decisive chapter of Israeli history," Peres summarized.

Not surprisingly, at the top of his list of achievements was the peace process.

"Thank God, we are no longer ruling the majority of another people," he said. "This is a great revolution. If we would still be ruling two million Palestinians, we would be endangering two things: the true character of Israel and the hierarchy of values of the Jewish people. I see the Oslo accord as a moral imperative of not ruling others."

After citing the regional benefits of the breakthrough with the Palestinians, such as the peace treaty with Jordan, Peres said that "the international image of Israel has changed radically. We have

become one of the most honored and admired countries in the world."

He also took pride in Israel's sharp economic growth, as well as the reduction of unemployment from over 11 percent in 1992 to under 6 percent today, saying this is one of the lowest unemployment levels in the world.

The one discordant note at the meeting was a tense exchange between Environment Minister Yossi Sarid and Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak.

Sarid charged that the IDF did not properly investigate the loss of five soldiers in last week's Hizbullah ambush in southern Lebanon. In an interview after the meeting, Sarid divulged details, since the matter is operational.

But he indicated that IDF investigations tend to deal with narrow tactical considerations, rather than with "the concept" of how such patrols are conducted.

Sarid denied that he favored a unilateral withdrawal from the security zone, because he cannot be sure it would not lead to Hizbullah shooting into the Galilee from just across the border.

Liberal Jews petition against religious party's demands

HAIM SHAPIRO

LEADERS of the Conservative and Reform movements in Israel and abroad have joined with women's groups, civil rights activists and archeologists to warn the new government of "the dangers to Israeli democracy, Judaism and the link with the Diaspora" if various demands of the religious parties are met.

Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch, executive director of ARZA, the American Reform movement's Zionist organization, displayed petitions bearing thousands of signatures from Reform Jews in America, which he is conveying to prime minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu. The groups are to hold a demonstration today at the Prime Minister's Office.

Speaking of the attempts to prevent Reform and Conservative representatives from sitting on religious councils, and to prevent recognition of non-Orthodox conversions in Israel, Hirsch said the campaign of the religious parties against the non-Orthodox would "disenfranchise" the very Diaspora Jews who are active in synagogues, Jewish federations, and other Jewish organizations.

Both Hirsch and Rabbi Robert Golub, executive director of Mercaz, the American Conservative movement's Zionist organization, stopped short of saying their members would boycott the UJA or other Israel-related fund-raising. The two are co-chairmen of the North American Coalition to Advance Religious Pluralism in Israel, a umbrella group which includes such organizations as the American Jewish Congress and the New Israel Fund. However, it does not include the ADL, the American Jewish Committee, or Hadassah, all groups which, in 1988, actively lobbied against any change in the Law of Return.

Asked why his group was not taking part, Harry Wall, director of the Israel office of the ADL, said he was reluctant to get involved at this stage.

"There was a tendency before the elections to paint the situation as relieving the Who is a Jew controversy. We feel that that isn't the issue," Wall said.

He said that the ADL supported religious pluralism, but it wanted to see what the Netanyahu government intended to do.

Hadassah's Israel spokesman Eli Hacohen said that the issue of whether Hadassah would join the coalition would be decided by the national board at the organization's national convention in Florida next month.

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Nitza Alush, who was wounded in yesterday's terrorist shooting in Bidya, is wheeled into Ramat Medical Center in Petah Tikva. (Michael Krause)

Shahal: We expected attacks during transition period

BILL HUTMAN

SECURITY forces expected Palestinian terror groups to increase their attacks during the interim period between relations between the Palestinian Authority and Israel, Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal said yesterday.

Shahal, speaking to reporters just after the first reports were received of the terrorist shooting of a policeman in Samaria, praised the cooperation Palestinian security forces have given the Israeli security forces in the past.

The policeman killed yesterday was the 29th killed in the past four years, according to Shahal.

"Immediately after the election I instructed the inspector-general to make sure police remained on alert," Shahal said. "Our assessment was that terror groups, the Hamas and Islamic Jihad, would carry out attacks during the interim period to increase tension between the sides."

Going on to emphasize the importance of cooperation between the

Israeli and Palestinian security forces, Shahal said, "my hope is that the new government will continue to encourage the cooperation between the two sides."

"Over the past several months, there have been a number of attacks that were prevented because of the help of the Palestinian security forces," Shahal said.

Addressing the larger issue of the war on terror, Shahal reiterated his position that Israel would only be able to deal with Palestinian terror by establishing a separation line roughly along the 1967 border.

"There is no choice but to implement the separation plan," Shahal said. "The separation plan is the only solution, regardless of whether the government is of the left or of the right."

"The question is only how many more attacks there will be until it will be understood that this plan must be implemented," added Shahal. He blamed Finance Minister Avraham Shohat for not making the funding available.

MKs divide up Knesset committees

LIAT COLLINS

THE Knesset House Committee and an appointments committee, including Likud MKs Michael Eitan and Yehoshua Matza, spent yesterday trying to determine which parties would head the various Knesset committees.

Traditionally, the ruling coalition controls the most important committees - Foreign Affairs and Defense, Finance, and Law - while the opposition holds State Control, Interior and Economics. Labor faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen challenged this and is demanding the Left be given five committees.

"If the Likud wasn't smart enough to object to the distribution last time, that's their problem," he told reporters yesterday.

Cohen said the new opposition would work on a rotation system to give as many MKs as possible a chance to head committees. He is expected to share his position as faction chairman with Yossi Beilin. Several outgoing ministers and deputy ministers are expected

to get positions as opposition coordinators on coalition-chaired committees. This includes Finance Minister Avraham Shohat on Finance, Deputy Defense Minister Ori Orr on Foreign Affairs and Defense, and Justice Minister David Lihai on Law.

Most senior Labor outgoing ministers will be members of Foreign Affairs and Defense. The two most likely candidates to head this committee are Likud MKs Ze'ev Begin or Uzi Landau.

In another matter, the new opposition has decried the new seating arrangements in the plenum. Eitan noted that it is traditional for the ruling party to sit to the right of the prime minister. In previous years, this seating put the opposition at a disadvantage, as the television cameras were positioned facing the coalition. In the last Knesset, however, this was remedied with more cameras and there is no reason not to switch seats, Eitan said.

IDF denies delay at Erez caused man's death

THE army yesterday denied Palestinian charges that soldiers caused the death of a heart patient by delaying his entry from Gaza to Israel for treatment by three hours.

Avi Gambash, spokesman for the army's coordinating office at the Erez checkpoint, said soldiers kept the man at the crossing last Thursday for just 35 minutes during a standard security check.

The Palestinian Authority obtained a permit for Ibrahim Sirsawi, 34, to be transferred to Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer after he suffered heart failure, Palestinian officials said.

"Seven minutes after crossing Erez, the patient died," said Nahed Shawwa, an ambulance driver who took Sirsawi to the crossing point. (Itim)

TERROR

(Continued from Page 1)

"We heard wild honking and ran outside to see what happened," said Baruch Angel, of Ariel's medical clinic. "We took them out of the car and while we treated them, an ambulance arrived to take them to the hospital."

A hospital spokesman reported that Alush had been moderately wounded, but the police and army spokesmen later said she had been lightly wounded.

Security sources said the terrorist was likely linked to the terror cell that set off a bomb which lightly wounded four Bezeq workers on June 3.

The sources said two other recent attacks in the area might also be linked to the cell.

Bidya is in Area B, where the IDF is responsible for security, but Palestinian security forces are also taking part in the investigation, according to the sources.

Alush served in the police force from 1983 to 1988, then took leave until 1992, when he returned, first to the Jerusalem district, and then to the Samaria district, headquartered in Ariel.

A neighbor of the family told Israel Radio that the Alushes had moved to Ariel from the Haifa area, and that Nitza had wanted to move back to Haifa for the past year.

The woman, breaking down in tears, added that she, too, wanted to leave.

"It's frightening," she said. "I want to leave. I am begging my husband from the bottom of my heart to leave this place. I don't want to be the next in line. I can't comprehend this."

Ariel spokeswoman Dina Shalit said the incident was particularly upsetting because many people from Ariel shop in Bidya, and there has never been a problem before.

RELIGIOUS

(Continued from Page 1)

The religious parties have little problem with non-Jewish ceremonies, the civil marriage issue is the hornet's nest which all governments have carefully avoided.

The Third Way added a letter to its coalition agreement, stipulating that within three months it plans to submit to the Knesset a bill demanding special Knesset and referendum majorities for any territorial concessions on the Golan. The Likud cosponsored such initiatives in the outgoing Knesset, but prefers keeping things vague so as not to provoke international pressure on the Netanyahu government.

On the issue of Jerusalem, the agreement reads: "Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, is one city, whole and united, and will remain forever under Israel's sovereignty... The government will thwart any attempt to undermine the unity of Jerusalem, and will prevent any action which is counter to Israel's exclusive sovereignty over the city." The 1992 guidelines of the Rabin government also called for retaining undivided sovereignty over Jerusalem.

On a related point, the guidelines assert the need to "enhance the social and economic status of the greater Jerusalem area."

Arab leaders have made it clear they would wait to read the new government's guidelines before taking any decisions at the Arab summit in Cairo this Friday. Arab commentators have warned against what they call Netanyahu's "three no's": Golan, Palestinian statehood, and Jerusalem.

An aide to Netanyahu last night insisted the new guidelines do not end negotiations with Syria and said there is no inherent contra-

dition between its call for talks with Damascus "without preconditions" and the following statement: "Retaining Israel's sovereignty over the Golan will be the basis for an arrangement with Syria."

Lebanon is the only Arab country not mentioned in the guidelines, while all other Arab countries with links to Israel are.

Under the Oslo accord, both Jerusalem and refugees are to be discussed during the final-status negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. The Netanyahu aide said Israel must oppose the return of Palestinians to the territories, since this affects the "demographic security" of Israel.

There is no mention of expanding settlements in the territories, but rather, in the final-status negotiations, when Israel will propose "self-rule," the settlements will retain "their affinity" with Israel.

The Likud announced that within two weeks it would submit a version of the so-called Norwegian Law, which would lead to the resignation from the Knesset of all ministers except for Netanyahu and his deputies - David Levy, Rafael Eitan, and Ze'ev Hammer - who, by law, must be MKs.

IDF source: Sloppiness caused last week's ambush

DAVID RUDGE and Jerusalem Post Staff

THE ground for the Hizbullah ambush in which five IDF soldiers were killed and eight wounded last Monday was laid by sloppiness on the part of the IDF, a senior military source said yesterday.

"The only thing missing was a sign: 'To the ambush,'" he said. "There is no doubt that Hizbullah prepared its ambush well," he said. "Anyone saying differently is trying to bury his head in the sand, and this is liable to prevent the necessary lessons from being learned."

He said there is no doubt Hizbullah knew exactly what route the soldiers would be taking to the ambush and back from it, and prepared a counter-ambush, even planting an explosive charge, which failed to go off.

"This couldn't have been done in a matter of seconds or minutes, as some in the IDF are saying," he added.

Meanwhile, a South Lebanese Army soldier was killed yesterday in a roadside bomb blast in the Jezzine enclave, north of the security zone, as fighting continued in the region.

Another SLA soldier died in Haifa's Rambam Hospital on Friday of wounds he suffered in a similar attack in the Beit Yaboun area last Sunday.

By last night, no organization had claimed responsibility for the bomb blast in the Jezzine area, although there were indications that it was probably the work of Hizbullah.

According to military sources, Hizbullah's fighting arm, the Islamic Resistance, has re-established itself in villages north of the zone.

Since then, Hizbullah gunmen have generally refrained from firing from the vicinity of villages and have concentrated instead on operations deeper in the zone.

Nine IDF soldiers have been killed and 25 wounded since the end of Operation Grapes of Wrath in April.

Sixteen IDF soldiers have been killed in south Lebanon since the beginning of the year, and 54 have been wounded.

Nine SLA soldiers have been killed so far this year, and 28 have been wounded.

The IDF Spokesman, meanwhile, confirmed yesterday that the IDF had arrested a Lebanese journalist over the weekend for providing Hizbullah with information.

The AFP news agency said on Friday that its singer Ali Dia was taken to Israel after he was asked by SLA officers to report to their headquarters in Marjayoun on Thursday.

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Handwritten signature or note at the bottom right of the page.

Manchester bomb raises fears of IRA split

BELFAST (Reuters) - A bomb that ripped through Manchester city center on Saturday has deepened gloom about prospects for a new cease-fire by the IRA and raised concerns that the guerrilla body may be divided within itself.

On both sides of the Irish Sea, politicians and security experts blamed the Irish Republican Army (IRA) for the blast in the northern England city which injured more than 200 people.

It was a blow to hopes that multi-party talks which began in Belfast last Monday might solve some of the intractable problems which have burdened British-ruled Northern Ireland for decades.

The shadowy commanders of the IRA, which has been fighting for 25 years to oust Britain from Northern Ireland, maintained an ominous silence in the hours after the explosion.

But politicians and the media speculated that the blast, the sixth in mainland Britain since February 9 and the first in seven weeks, was evidence of a split in

the republican movement, which embraces the IRA and its political arm, Sinn Fein.

"The Manchester bombing points to a split between republicans committed to the peace process and hardliners intent on violence," the London newspaper *The Observer* said.

Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring agreed. "There's speculation that it may be [the work of] a breakaway [group]... That leads us facing a new difficulty," he told Sky Television.

"We had always felt over the last number of years we were dealing with the leadership, with people who were trying to bring the IRA into democratic politics. "But the situation I think could now be a very difficult in the sense that we do not know who we are actually dealing with," Spring said.

In Belfast, republican sources would not comment on a report in the *Sunday Life* newspaper that three headline IRA units in areas along the border with the Irish

Republic were threatening to break ranks with a leadership accused of going soft in favor of politics.

British security sources have been saying for more than a year that IRA units in rural Northern Ireland never wanted an 18-month cease-fire the guerrilla leaders called in September 1994 and which ended with a bomb in London in February.

The IRA said it went back to war because Britain had double-crossed it by refusing to bring Sinn Fein into peace talks. Britain and Ireland are adamant that they will not allow Sinn Fein into the talks until the guerrillas abandon violence.

But every bomb that goes off stiffens the resolve of pro-British Protestant Unionist politicians not to negotiate with republicans while they have a guerrilla army lurking in the shadows.

"They can only come to the table on terms of votes, not on the terms of guns and bombs," David Trimble, leader of the powerful Ulster Unionist Party told Reuters.



Helmeted members of the National Students' Self-Government Association snake on a Tokyo street during their protest march yesterday. More than 500 students demonstrated against China conducting a nuclear test in its western desert on June 8. (AP)

Republicans suspect Hillary in FBI files affair

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Republican lawmakers said yesterday that they suspect US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton may have played a role in the White House obtaining more than 400 sensitive FBI background files in 1993 and 1994.

William Clinger, chairman of the House Government Reform Committee, said his panel will begin hearings on Wednesday, and suggested that Hillary Clinton was a suspect in the search for the person responsible for ordering the White House to get the records.

Appearing on the program *Fox News Sunday*, Clinger said "I know that the first lady was involved in the firing of the travel office seven," referring to staff members fired shortly after Clinton took office in 1993.

"We do know that she had a direct role in that. It has been denied by the White House, but she was involved," Clinger said. "So I think that has obviously raised our suspicions."

Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky said on the same program he doubted that low-level White House officials were responsible. "Lower level people don't get that kind of information."

Both agreed that the affair had the potential to reach the proportions of a Watergate, the scandal that led to President Richard Nixon's resignation from office.

"I think at this point it's premature to say it's approaching that [Watergate level], although I think it has the potential to do that," Clinger said.

On *Face the Nation* on CBS, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott said he felt there was "a pattern of concealment or obstruction" by the White House in both the Whitewater affair and with the FBI files.

"I think that needs to be looked into," the Mississippi Republican said, saying he favored holding congressional hearings on the issue. "There's a pattern of things being done and then everyone saying, 'Gee, I didn't know that.'"

President Bill Clinton has said that he will take responsibility for the "innocent bureaucratic mistake" and has apologized. He said none of the FBI information, which included files on some top Republicans, had been abused.

Associate White House Counsel Mark

Fabiani said on the Fox program that obtaining the files was "a big mistake, it was a huge mistake."

"So far, every fact which has emerged points to an innocent bureaucratic blunder," he said.

Last week, the FBI sharply rebuked the White House after its own inquiry found "egregious violations of privacy had occurred." Director Louis Freeh ordered the agency to immediately adopt reforms making it more difficult to obtain secret files.

Prospective Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole compared the incident to the infamous "enemies list" gathered by President Richard Nixon's White House in the early 1970s.

House of Representatives Majority Leader Dick Armey of Texas has dismissed Clinton's explanation.

"I think what the president is saying is untrue, but I don't think the president knows enough about truth or falsehood outside of his own convenience and his own life to understand what is an untrue when he says it," Armey said in an interview on the CNN program *Evans and Novak*.

Turkish agency reports new explosions in Syria

ANKARA (Reuters) - New explosions have been reported in northern parts of Syria over the past week, and the Syrian army has reinforced its forces near the Turkish border, Turkey's semi-official Anatolian news agency said yesterday.

Turkish and Syrian traders coming from Syria told the agency a Syrian opposition group, Moslem Brothers, was behind the explosions which first started in May.

They said Damascus deployed

new armored units in some towns near Turkey after the blasts started. The agency did not specify where the units were positioned.

Traders said security officials arrested an unspecified number of Syria's ethnic Turks.

Earlier this month, the US State Department said it had confirmed reports of several explosions in Syria over the past month and advised its citizens there to take care. Damascus dismissed the US

claims.

Ankara and Damascus are at odds over water rights and Syria's alleged support for Kurdish rebels active in southeast Turkey.

Abdulh Ocalan, head of the separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) who is believed to live in Syria, said last month that he had been the target of an unsuccessful assassination attempt by the Turkish government.

Monsoon storms kill at least 123 in southern India

DELHI, India (AP) - A second cyclone hit southern India yesterday, destroying houses and farmland and raising the death toll from days of monsoon storms with heavy rains to at least 123 people.

The new cyclone moved into Andhra Pradesh state from the Bay of Bengal, packing 80 kph winds.

At least 54 people have died in that state alone over the weekend, Press Trust of India said. Most drowned when swollen streams and rivers flooded villages.

As of Saturday, 85 storm deaths had been reported from the southern states. News agencies reported 38 additional deaths yesterday across the region, 2,000

kilometers southeast of New Delhi.

As the new cyclone moved northwest into India, forecasters issued warnings in the coastal areas of Bangladesh for a cyclone that hit the southeastern coast of India on Friday.

Friday's storm left more than 3,000 families in the coastal districts homeless and covered area towns with several feet of water, officials said in Hyderabad, the capital city of Andhra Pradesh.

Yesterday, that cyclone was about 900 kilometers south of Chittagong, Bangladesh's main port city, the weather office in Dhaka said. Forecasters said it has intensified, with wind speeds topping 60 mph.

As of Saturday, 85 storm deaths had been reported from the southern states. News agencies reported 38 additional deaths yesterday across the region, 2,000

'Troops kill over 70 in Burundi'

BUJUMBURA, Burundi (Reuters) - Burundian troops massacred at least 70 Hutu civilians on and around hills in central Burundi last Thursday, community workers yesterday quoted survivors as saying.

The expatriate workers, who have lived in the area of the massacre for two years but declined to be identified, showed Reuters a

list compiled from local residents of the names of 40 Hutus and one member of the Twa ethnic group killed by troops.

They said 30 other Hutus were killed but could not be named by residents as they had only recently arrived in the area of four hills near the Kaniga river in the north-west part of Gitega province.

"A Hutu woman told me how

she and her children hid in coffee bushes and watched horrified as the soldiers hunted down their screaming victims, shooting or bayoneting them and throwing their bodies in the river," said one of the foreign workers.

They said an estimated 175 soldiers in six trucks arrived on Kibimba hill north of a town of the same name on Thursday and in five hours killed the 71 with automatic weapons, machineguns and bayonets on Musama, Kaniga, Munanira and Nyabitsinda hills.

They said many victims were trapped on a bank of the Kaniga river in Bivumu commune as soldiers advanced in a semi-circle.

"Five Hutu women and one baby were later brought to Kibimba hospital. Three of the women died," said another foreign worker.

"One of the survivors had a gunshot wound in the shoulder, club wounds on the neck, two fingers

cut off and a bayonet wound in the back," he added.

Lieutenant-Colonel Jean-Bosco Daradagwe, a senior Burundian military officer, told Reuters he had not heard of the reported massacre in Gitega and it surprised him but he would check.

"It surprises me because this area... has normally had a very good history of relations between the military and population."

The foreign workers said they could not pinpoint a reason for the massacre but it may have been in retaliation for the killing on Wednesday of four people in the area by Hutu rebels.

Human rights groups say the army and rebels almost routinely kill civilians in Burundi in retaliation for attacks. More than 150,000 people have been killed since 1993 in Burundi where the Tutsi-dominated army is at war with Hutu rebels who seized control of much of the interior this year.

FRENKEL

(Continued from Page 1)

he could have his pick from among Tourism, Communications, or Health, he said he preferred no portfolio at all. Likud insiders feel Meridor was humiliated and that by denying him his old Justice portfolio, Netanyahu was in fact making it impossible for him to serve in his government.

Begin told Netanyahu he would not join the cabinet without Meridor and would not even discuss a portfolio for himself until Meridor had accepted one.

Katsav also reportedly took offense at being offered Tourism, Health, or Communications, but is said to be angling for Housing on the assumption Sharon will not change his mind and claim it.

HARDBALL

(Continued from Page 1)

The three blatant examples are Finance, Justice, and Internal Security. Nothing stopped Netanyahu from offering any of these to smooth Likud egos. He deliberately chose not to.

For Finance and Justice he preferred imports from outside the political arena altogether. The wish for professionals may be laudable, but past experience has shown all too often that to be effective a minister should have the greatest possible political clout. The outsiders have none and this could hamper their work.

When Tsomet's Rafael Eitan's legal problems put the Internal Security portfolio back in circulation, the hope in the Likud was that it would mean at least one fiercer portfolio for the many Likud hopefuls. At that time The Third Way's Avigdor Kahalani was giving Netanyahu no trouble and was willing to accept the Tourism portfolio. Giving him Internal Security constituted an unexpected bonus.

Hence Netanyahu's clash with the Likud leadership is not unavoidable. Some in the Likud speak of his settling accounts. This could explain what was done to Meridor and Begin, but not to Sharon, whose role in Netanyahu's victory was pivotal. But at the very least there is a brutal vote of no-confidence by Netanyahu in the Likud's foremost team.

If his idea is to put into effect the American model of appointing secretaries to departments, Netanyahu may yet discover that what remains of the parliamentary system here dictates different rules to the game. The Likud yesterday was shaken to the core - far worse than it was by the reduction of its parliamentary representation. Many in the party spoke of its being on the verge of a breakup and of the possible formation of a "trade union of Netanyahu's victims."

The fact that some of the most popular Likud figures are involved does not promise Netanyahu four serene years from within. And, in four years, he might face a backlash from a Likud rank and file that might not like seeing its heroes slapped in the face.

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הכרזה מן האירוע

Amadeus: Look what they've done to my song

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

WATCH out, Wolfgang. More than two centuries after Antonio Salieri allegedly messed with your health, another composer is doing the same with your music. His name is Amnon Wolman and he splits his life between Chicago and Tel Aviv. Last year Americans saw the premiere of Wolman's *Don Giovanni Revisited* and now local music-lovers will have a chance to see what has happened with Mozart's famous Don on the verge of the 21st century.

Wolman owes the idea to controversial opera director Peter Sellars. "When he cast two black identical twins as Don Giovanni and his servant Leporello in a production which he set in present-day Harlem, he discovered something very interesting about the nature of this opera. But I felt that he didn't carry the idea to its limit. Because it is not only the don and his servant who are actually two sides of the same coin. In fact all the characters in this opera present different aspects of one personality."

One problem, Wolman admits, is that of the anemic Don Ottavio: "Mozart has written his most beautiful music to him but he's real problematic so I simply dispensed with him."

Other than that, *Don Giovanni Revisited* features just two singers. One male who enacts the roles of the don, his servant and the commentators whom the don kills at the beginning of Mozart's opera, and one female who is all of the don's attempted conquests in one.

Wolman did not write even one single note of his own in this new opera of his. "I'm not a creator here but an interpreter," he says. "Just like any director can take a Shakespeare classic and present it in a new and different way, so can I with a Mozart classic. Somehow there is this kind of sacred feeling about the music, there is this idea that one is not allowed to touch it. I beg to differ."

THERE IS another reason for doing this new opus. "In our time if I want to enjoy *Don Giovanni* I can listen to it on a CD at home and no performance in the theater will be able to match that for sheer quality," says Wolman. "Moreover you must realize that our notion of drama probably differs considerably from the immediacy of drama in Mozart's time."

Sorry, wrong number

FILM REVIEW
ADINA HOFFMAN
GIRL 6
★★

Directed by Spike Lee. Written by Susan-Lori Parks. Hebrew title: *Na'ara Mispur 6*, 108 minutes. English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Not recommended for children.

Who is the real Spike Lee? Director, writer, actor, producer, entrepreneur, culture hero, the nerdy black New York Knicks aficionado is, for lack of a more precise designation, the creator of one of the bumpiest oeuvres in recent movie memory.



Theresa Randle plays a phone sex operator and one-woman cast of thousands in Spike Lee's latest film. It's not nearly as much fun as 'She's Gotta Have It.'

After his initial success with the fizzy low-budget sex comedy *She's Gotta Have It*, Lee went on to direct a series of racially probing, tonally complex pictures including the goofy-hot-urgent college musical *School Daze*, the daring street allegory *Do the Right Thing*, and the big, straight Hollywood biopic *Malcolm X*. Whatever one felt about those films, it was impossible to dismiss them or their deadpan mastermind. No one else in American movies was staring the subject of skin color and prejudice so straight in the face, let alone hitching those huge themes to such a distinctive, nearly comic visual style.

But for whatever reason (fatigue? the Zeitgeist?), the director's hard-hitting nerve and vision are nearly absent from his latest film, *Girl 6*, a thin bit of willed frivolity that stars the pouty-lipped Theresa Randle as a frustrated New York actress who finds work as a phone sex operator and winds up adoring the job. As she sees it, the chance to metamorphose into a whole range of fantasy objects (dominatrix, girl-next-door, high-school cheer-

leader, housewife, etc.) is a theatrical dream come true. She's a one-woman cast of thousands. Although it may sound like a return to the bubbly fun of *She's Gotta Have It*, the film is essentially a tease, and a fairly dull one at that. As Randle coddles her customers through the mouthpiece, the camera stays fixed on her pretty face, allowing us to peep while we eavesdrop. And eavesdrop and eavesdrop. Apparently Lee and screenwriter Susan-Lori Parks find the (fairly generic) smut talk fascinating, since they let us listen

in on dozens of *Girl 6*'s calls. But why? There's something impersonal and even a bit creepy about Lee's fixation on his heroine. The picture he paints of *Girl 6* is vague, little more than a cleaned-up extension of a phone sex client's fantasy, according to which the woman on the other end of the line is both gorgeous and getting off on all the dirty banter. In Robert Altman's *Short Cuts*, Jennifer Jason Leigh played a plain-looking phone sex operator who changed diapers and cooked dinner while she ooted and aahed

to the telephone: this practical, desexed vision may not be so titillating as the image of Randle wiggling and sighing in a low-cut blouse, but it's probably truer to life. In all fairness, tough realism is clearly not what Lee's after here. The film's bright, neon photography, Randle's hundred-odd changes of groovy costume and the constant backdrop of the woody Prince songs that fill the soundtrack combine to give *Girl 6* the quality of playful make-believe. A bunch of celebrity

All the street's a stage

HELEN KAYE

THERE'LL be the theatrical equivalent of a town crier at the intersection of Nissenbaum and Haroshet streets in Bat Yam. He'll be bawling out performance times for the 20 or so programs in the first ever local International Street Theater Festival, which takes place on July 1 and 2.

This is the fulfillment of an 11-year dream," said festival artistic director Jackie Bechar, founder and director of the Diabolo Theater, one of the first to put this genre on the map locally. "Street theater here has always been an addition to other festivals. Now it has its own."

Street theater has been around for centuries but it's had a real renaissance over the last couple of decades, especially in Europe where street theater festivals, such as that in Chalons, France, enjoy international prestige. "Street theater has been growing here," says Bechar with satisfaction, "and it'll grow more because it's very audience-friendly."

Pinchas Zukerman brings it all back home - to Holon

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

IT'S Saturday noon and the sun is scorching. The streets outside the Steinberg Arts Center in Holon are rather empty, but inside 30 musicians - including Pinchas Zukerman - are enjoying a Shabbat lunch. Welcome to the Ilona Feher Music Center in Holon, a three-year-old organization with a very specific aim - to foster the violinists and violists of the future. The center is an initiative of impresario Ruth Shabar and the Holon Municipality. For both, Zukerman was the only possible choice to lead it.

Ilona Feher, whose students have included the likes of Shlomo Mintz and Shmuel Ashkenazi. FEHER, Zukerman recalls, "came to Israel after the revolution in Hungary. She belonged to a middle-European mentality and in the '50s Israel was quite remote from middle Europe."

"She had personal difficulties adjusting. She belonged to one of the conservatories in Tel Aviv but she always taught at home. She lived on 11 Weizmann Street and she had a dog, Kaya, who always attended when I had a lesson."

The program Zukerman initiated in Holon is an offshoot of the Zukerman program at the Manhattan School of Music, where he teaches regularly in between his hectic performance schedule. "It is a very intensive program here and over a limited period of time. Some of the students come with us from New York and the rest we audition in Israel and all over the world."

This year 21 students are officially participating in the program and for the first time they are all paying for their tuition. "We could have easily had 40 or more but this is not what we believe in. We want to give individual lessons and not teach in groups."

The "we" are Zukerman's colleagues from his student days Pauline Scott and Pettinka Kopec. "We all studied together, we teach the same way and we even speak the same musical language. We have all studied with [Ivan] Galamian so in a way it is

adding that the 1996 program has evolved in other directions. "This year we have also student concerts and the next week, when I play a Bach violin concerto in Jerusalem [for the *Touch the Walls, Touch the Light* extravaganza] I'm taking a group of the students from here to be my orchestra. So this is in a way really an embryo of what this program eventually might turn into."

Sure, Bibi is prime minister but B.B. is always King

BLUESTER B.B. King, Marianne Faithfull and the inimitable David Bowie are only three of the pop/rock music superstars coming to ravish our senses this summer. The others are Iceland's songstress, Bjork, Sonic Youth, Andy Summers and his trio, and the Cocteau Twins from Scotland. David Bowie and Massive Attack lead the way on July 3 at the Hayarkon Park in Tel Aviv followed by the 71-year-old King on July 11, with his program *The King of the Blues '96* at the Sultan's Pool in Jerusalem. He's been one of the kings of the blues since 1948 and his album *Live at San Quentin* won a Grammy as recently as 1990. Former lead singer of The Sugarbushes, Bjork went solo in 1993 and *Debut*, her first album, sold 2.5 million copies worldwide.

She's coming with *Bjork '96* on August 26 and 28, preceded on August 20 and 22 by the electronic rock group, Sonic Youth, with guitarist Lee Ranaldo, who was here at last month's Next alternative rock festival. Andy Summers and Larry Coryell on guitars, accompanied by tabla virtuoso Trilok Gurtu, are at the Mann Auditorium on July 9; and Scotland's eclectic Cocteau Twins trio will play on October 10. The one and only Marianne Faithfull won't be reprising her hit *A Secret Life*. Instead she'll be singing a program of Brecht/Weill songs in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv on September 5 and 7. Ticket prices haven't been set yet but there will be a 15% discount for those buying a pack of three and a 25% discount on five concerts. Helen Kaye

Karmiel: Folk-dancing galore plus a wheelchair ballet

HELEN KAYE

DANCERS and dance fans of all stripes come into their own during the Karmiel Festival. This year's festival packs 70 events into 72 hours from July 9-11. Two evenings of folk dancing and the Spanish Ballet *Rafael Aguilar* anchor the festival, which also includes a premiere (untitled as yet) from Rami Be'er and the Kibbutz Dance Company, a 60 hour non-stop folk dance marathon and a wheelchair ballet from the disabled IDF veterans of Beit Halochem. Artistic director Yonatan Carmou, who celebrates his 10th year at the festival, has directed the opening extravaganza at the 20,000-seat amphitheater. It features 70 folk dance troupes from

Israel, Sicily, Ukraine and places in Asia among others. The final show has some 1,000 local dancers showing off their paces in new dances topped off with a fireworks show. In the middle of the festival, on July 10, the Spanish company will perform *Bolero*, excerpts from *Carmen* and *Flamenco Rhythm*. Noted British avant-garde dancer Russell Malphart will present his duet, *Unspoken*, which he choreographed and also dances in. Other Karmiel visitors include the Caracas Ballet with *Carmine Burana*, and the Braunschweig Ballet from Germany, who will perform two programs of four works each - both of which

include *Clockwork Orange*, based on the Anthony Burgess novel - and *Rebounds*, a fantasy for dancers. In addition, special events include a folk dance competition, a display of ballroom dancing by adults and kids, singer Yaffa Yarkoni and the traditional appearance of the Karmiel "little uns" from 10 to 13 with folk dances from the '80s. And not least, there is the premiere of *Timno*, a biblical love story, choreographed by Carmou. The budget (80 percent of which comes from the Karmiel municipality), is NIS 1.2 million, and tickets, from NIS 30 to NIS 50 are available at ticket agencies country-wide and from the festival box office - tel. (04) 988-1111.

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Unwarranted American compliments

ARON Miller, a leading member of the State Department's policy team on the Middle East, recently told a Jewish audience that there were three issues on which Yasser Arafat's compliance with the Oslo accords should be measured.

The argument on whether or not Arafat has actually amended the PLO Covenant has become tiresome. But the fact is that even now, Arafat apologists cannot point to a single amended clause.

Whether or not the extradition agreement is, as Miller says, "open to interpretation" - a questionable and cynical assertion - is hardly the point.

True, there has been some cooperation between the Palestinians and Israel's General Security Service. But none of the most wanted Hamas terrorists, most notably Hassan Salameh who was nabbed by the army in Hebron last month, has been caught with PA help.

A professional choice

THOUGH it will be possible to gauge its economic success only later on, the appointment of Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel as finance minister may herald a new age of reason in Israeli politics.

Only once before has a prime minister looked to someone from outside his party to fill a senior cabinet position: when Menachem Begin appointed Moshe Dayan foreign minister.

Yet Frenkel's appointment is even more revolutionary. Unlike Dayan, the world-renowned economist has had a perfectly technocratic, non-political career.

Indeed, the new appointment is in line with the prime minister-elect's campaign promises to cut the budget, slash taxes and launch Israel's long overdue mass-privatization program.

Frenkel's appointment is, in and of itself, a blunt statement of policy, which should allay previous fears that other mooted candidates

Now it has become clear that the cooperation between the PLO and Israel against Hamas terrorism was intended to last only until the Israeli elections.

Sources in the PA openly say that soon, virtually all Hamas operatives detained after the suicide bombings will be released.

These moves, added to Arafat's declaration in Aqaba on June 5 that he intends to announce the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, are in clear violation of the Oslo agreement.

Although the Palestinian rhetoric has become milder in the past few days - almost certainly as a result of American pressure - Arafat's moves to reconcile with Hamas and again have a "working" agreement with the Islamist organization, is worrisome.

The new government's policy guidelines call for a continued dialogue with the PA, but they make such a continuation contingent on the PA's compliance with the Oslo and Cairo agreements.

would be political Trojan horses and financial loose cannons.

Similarly, Frenkel will be scorn of his predecessor's disastrous commitments to an assortment of public-sector pressure groups to whom he gave lavish wage rises, pension arrangements and bailout plans, without winning solid cost-cutting structural reforms in return.

It remains to be seen to what extent the new finance minister will be burdened by budgetary promises to the emerging coalition's various partners. However, judging by his unwavering containment of the politicians and industrialists, who loathed his strong-shekel inclination and sought to destroy his prudent monetary policy, Frenkel is not likely to sanction fiscal licentiousness.

That's odd, since the Health Ministry has a giant NIS 6.7b. annual operating budget and a NIS 342m. development budget (compared to Interior's NIS 4.14b., Trade and Industry's NIS 2.79b., Absorption's NIS 1.48b., and Religious Affairs' NIS 1.2 b.; only Defense, Education, and Construction and Housing are bigger).

And no Israeli is unaffected by its policies.

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OLEG 96

Prime minister as hostage

ISRAEL is beautiful, but it isn't Scandinavia.

The press is abuzz with reports that Prime Minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu is considering adopting an Israeli version of "the Norwegian law."

This would entail requiring ministers (and perhaps deputy ministers) to resign their Knesset seats while serving in the prime minister's government.

Ministers would be able to focus on their job; MKs could concentrate solely on their Knesset work. At least, that's the plan.

"The Norwegian law" is in fact Article 62 of the Norwegian Constitution of 1814 which states, among other things, that "Members of the Council of State may not attend meetings of the Storting (parliament) as representatives while holding a seat in the Council of State."

A representative of the Norwegian parliament who is appointed minister can therefore not attend meetings in parliament, and a "deputy representative" takes his place.

Why is the prime minister-elect considering introducing a change to the brand new law that elected him? Because of an apparently unforeseen product of the new law: It increased the strength of the smaller parties at the expense of Labor and the Likud.

Likud-Gesher-Tsomet garnered only 32 seats, down from its previous strength of 40 in the outgoing Knesset. Of these 32 MKs, only 21 are from the Likud. If the new prime minister wants to put his people in key positions in the government and in the Knesset by appointing them as ministers, committee chairs, Speaker of the Knesset, members of important

ADAM DODEK

committees, etc., these 21 will be hard-pressed to cover all their responsibilities.

The desire to adopt the Norwegian law is thus logical, for it would free ministers from their parliamentary duties while retaining for them all their parliamentary benefits.

The Knesset enacted the new Basic Law: The Government in

The 'Norwegian law' is attractive, but it isn't Israel's best option

1992. This law, known as the law for direct election of the prime minister, sets the maximum number of ministers at 18, including the prime minister. According to it, no more than half of the ministers may be non-MKs.

The direct election law is the first basic law to be fully entrenched. This means no provision may be changed except by an absolute majority of at least 61 of the 120 MKs.

This should not present a problem for the new prime minister if he can convince his coalition partners to go along with the Norwegian law. And there is no reason why they shouldn't. If a minister gives up his Knesset seat, he still maintains all the powers and the privileges of an MK with the exception of the right to vote.

THE Norwegian law is attractive, but it isn't Israel's best option. The prime minister-elect

should introduce a law requiring ministers to fully relinquish their Knesset seats upon assuming a cabinet post.

Under the Norwegian law, a minister who loses his post returns to the parliament. But if the prime minister had the power to condition ministerial appointment upon relinquishing one's Knesset seat, his control over his cabinet would increase. It would force a prospective minister to choose between the Knesset and the cabinet.

A recalcitrant minister would be forced to think twice about challenging the premier, for if the latter exercised his right to fire the minister, that minister would then be stranded in the political wilderness.

Throughout Israel's history prime ministers have been held hostage by their own ministers as a result of the exigencies of coalition government. David Ben-Gurion faced leaks of confidential information from within his own government. Yitzhak Rabin failed to muster the courage to fire a minister under criminal indictment.

Ministers tend to serve their own interests rather than those of the public or the prime minister who appointed them - an Israeli Democracy Institute publication once likened the operation of ministries in Israel to "little fiefdoms" run by the minister-chiefdom.

With the power to banish a minister from active political life, the prime minister would wield the measure of control over insurgent ministers that is the natural accompaniment to direct election.

Adopting the Norwegian law might address Netanyahu's current difficulty of the scarcity of Likud MKs, but it doesn't go far enough. The people's choice could still be held hostage to despotic ministers.

The writer is a Fulbright Scholar researching Israeli constitutional law.

Hard facts

ZEV KATZ

HISTORY is full of seeming paradoxes.

Menachem Begin was elected on a platform of not giving back to the "Egyptian enemy one grain of sand of Sinai."

Begin even promised that he would go and live on one of the Sinai settlements after retiring from the premiership.

The settlers who danced in the streets when he became premier were later forcibly removed from Yamit and other Sinai settlements after the peace agreement with Egypt - which was opposed in the Knesset by leading members of the Likud and approved by the votes of the left.

Charles de Gaulle was elected president of France by the votes of the right after his solemn assurance that he would never give up "French Algeria."

Yet it was de Gaulle who withdrew French forces from Algeria, recognized its independence, and agreed to the total evacuation of a million and a half French settlers.

When elected, Richard Nixon and George Bush were staunch anti-Communists. Later both became the architects of friendly relations with Soviet Russia and Communist China.

And vice versa: For decades Mao Zedong depicted the US as a "capitalist-imperialist" power and "enemy of mankind." Then he went and established friendly relations with it. There are many more such examples.

Were all these great leaders lying on purpose? Were they betraying their followers, and their nations' best interests?

The answer seems to lie in the place where will and determination meet fact and reality.

De Gaulle came to the unshakable conclusion that France couldn't keep Algeria. Nixon, Bush, and Mao, realized that ultimately the other side could not be vanquished, and that, ultimately, the interests of their countries lay in recognizing its reality.

Begin realized that peace without Sharm was preferable to Sharm without peace.

These leaders all changed their original positions radically after arriving at a different concept of their countries' interests. Or simply: They recognized the facts on the ground.

THIS COULD provide some insight into what we may expect from Binyamin Netanyahu as prime minister.

Just several months ago it

Netanyahu may in the end complete what Peres couldn't finish

seemed impossible that Netanyahu and the Likud would recognize the Oslo agreements, even de facto. And Netanyahu meeting with Yasser Arafat? Forget it.

Yet the reality of Oslo was a feature of Netanyahu's election campaign.

Sooner or later Netanyahu will realize that the policies that got him elected do not accord with certain indomitable realities: that, for example, two million Palestinians cannot be suppressed indefinitely by force, in the face of their opposition and the entire world's; and that there can be no peace with Syria without returning the entire Golan to it.

Like Yitzhak Rabin, Netanyahu may well come to understand that ultimately Arafat is the only realistic partner for peace. And Bibi may, in the end, complete what Peres couldn't finish.

Under enormous pressure to "give for peace," he might be the leader to withdraw from the Golan, explaining, as Begin did with the Sinai, that it is not, after all, part of Eretz Israel.

And, in the end, Netanyahu might reach a final settlement with the Palestinians, one which will provide them with some form of limited independence.

In both cases the agreements will clearly have to include security arrangements satisfactory to Israel.

Such peace agreements will make it through the Knesset supported by the entire left and furiously opposed by the extreme right-wingers who danced in the streets the day after the elections.

An about-face Netanyahu in the role of peacemaker would be no new phenomenon. History is scattered with such seeming anomalies.

The writer is a professor of history at the Hebrew University.

No jobs for the boys

POOR Health Ministry.

This giant government establishment owns and runs all the government hospitals and supervises all the others, implements the national health insurance system and is the guardian of public health - but nobody wants to be health minister.

That's odd, since the Health Ministry has a giant NIS 6.7b. annual operating budget and a NIS 342m. development budget (compared to Interior's NIS 4.14b., Trade and Industry's NIS 2.79b., Absorption's NIS 1.48b., and Religious Affairs' NIS 1.2 b.; only Defense, Education, and Construction and Housing are bigger).

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Nearly all the names mooted so far for the job have been administrative ingenuities: Avigdor Kahalani, Tzahi Hanegbi, Yehoshua Matza. If an inexperienced person is given control of a vital and complex field like health, his government limousine should at least be filled with training wheels.

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JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Eliezer Shostak, Shoshana Arbeli-Almoslin, Ehud Olmert, Haim Ramon and Mordechai Gur spring to mind. And one needn't be a doctor to be health minister - although the ministry's director-general must be a physician. But any health minister needs at least to be interested in the subject.

Outgoing minister Ephraim Sneh is a physician. But he was so extra-

That's one reason nobody wants to be health minister

ordinarily uninterested in the portfolio that he was a great disappointment to those who had hoped he would shake up the sleepy and largely mediocre entity.

Already a self-declared Labor Party candidate for the premiership, Sneh spent much of his energy on defense and political issues, at the expense of health. He inherited the national health insurance law from Haim Ramon (who resigned to run the Histadrut) and let it ride.

The health system urgently requires course corrections, is over NIS 1b. in the red, and unless urgent, painful action is taken, will be mired in deficits, renewed labor strife and shrinking medical services.

THE HEALTH Ministry is an orphan because anything the next minister does to save the system is bound to be unpopular.

Governments throughout the Western world are struggling with maintaining a balance between strangled budgets and citizens'

demands for equal access to improved, high-tech medicine. The cost (in the US it has reached 15% of the gross national product) can only rise along with increased public expectation.

The ministry's budget is huge - but, unlike in the Religious Affairs Ministry, the minister cannot divert it as he wishes. Health Ministry money is largely transferred directly to medical facilities, according to the number of beds or patients. There is little leeway here for a politician who wants to curry favor.

Another reason for the ministry's lack of appeal to politicians is that it isn't a storehouse of appointments for campaign friends who need rewarding. A political hack who delivered votes in the last campaign won't be named director of a government hospital or head of the food service division; only professionals can hold such jobs.

And most ministry jobs outside the hospitals are so low-paid that most highly qualified people prefer the private market.

Although premier-elect Netanyahu seems to have given little thought so far to the Health Ministry, he ought to make sure it is taken over by a serious candidate with already-proven administrative experience and political clout.

The minister must get along well with both the premier and the finance minister, who largely decides what the health system will be able to afford.

If the system continues to decline and Israelis are denied decent medical treatment, they won't forget come the year 2000.

The writer is The Jerusalem Post's health, science and technology reporter. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the paper.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir, - I must take issue with the venomous article by Thomas L. Friedman (The New York Times Weekly Review distributed in The Jerusalem Post of June 3 captioned "And one man voted twice.")

First, the caption is no great literary brainstrom of Mr. Friedman. In the time spent in Jerusalem, he has clearly been avidly reading the local English-language press, as similar bylines appeared here twice last week, and listening to the local TV and radio, where the griping losers endlessly expressed the same sentiments. The Israeli Supreme Court accorded Yigal Amir the right to vote, along with every other convicted murderer who is a citizen of Israel, including many Arabs.

The legacy of the Israeli election will certainly not be the winning voices who lost by approximately 55 percent to 45 percent of the Jewish vote. Yes, we unashamedly say the Jewish vote, lest anyone forget that the State of Israel was established as a national homeland for the Jewish

SORE LOSER

people after the most indescribable calamity to have ever befallen the civilized world: the Nazi Holocaust. The people voted against a peace that has seen more Israelis butchered in the streets and blown to pieces in buses than were ever killed before the Oslo process started. The people voted against a peace that makes faint-hearts like Thomas Friedman feel they need to cover in out-of-the-way places and avoid the center of Jerusalem in case another Palestinian suicide bomber immolates dozens more innocents. This is not peace - this is fiction masquerading as peace.

Are these the fruits of the "two implemented peace accords with the Palestinians?" Prime Minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu is inheriting? A full peace with Egypt - a country that publicly attacks Israel. Low-level negotiations with Syria - a country that will reluctantly agree to consider abandoning its life's ambi-

tion of wiping Israel off the map if Israel will unconditionally relinquish the same Golan Heights the Syrians mercilessly bombarded us from before they started the 1967 war they subsequently lost. Is this the inheritance Friedman seems so proud of?

Mr. Friedman, it is you who must confront the truth. Cease playing the part of a bitter old widow and wake up to the fact that there is no real peace. All your arguments, including shamelessly using the Rabin murder, which Shimon Peres to his great credit refused to do, prove your point. Your cries are those of a sore loser with the defeated political philosophy of Meretz and the ultra left; defeated at the polls in the only democratic nation in the Middle East.

GRAND RABBI LEVI Y. HOROWITZ, The Bostoner Rebbe, Member of the Council of Torah Sages in Israel Jerusalem.

Scrib

Can We

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom right of the page.

Scribes were a cut above the rest of Assyrian society

FAATHER who wanted his son to get ahead in ancient Nineveh couldn't send him to law school. But if the father was a scribe - a member of the elite scholarly class - he could pass on his knowledge to his son, thus assuring him a place at the top of Assyrian society.

Historian Giovanni Lanfranchi has a deep affinity for these scholars of old. He's an expert on neo-Assyrian texts of the first millennium BCE, in the department of antiquity sciences at the University of Padua. "We are the descendants of these scholars," he said with a laugh as he leafed through his well-thumbed copy of texts during an interview in Jerusalem.

They even had their own god, Nahu, who originated in Babylonia. His was the task of writing down the destinies of the universe and of humanity, and he was also the patron of the scribal art. According to Lanfranchi, the king gave property, and sometimes money, to his scribes. "We don't know if the king's gifts were large or small," he said, but clearly, some of the scribes were left dissatisfied.

One, a personal counselor to the king, complained that everyone had received gifts but he had received nothing. Later, he thanked the king for a gift, but complained that now his son was dying of hunger. "Why then must I and my son... be restless and depressed amid the other scholars?"

In an empire remembered for its military might, intellectuals were among the elite, but the king kept them in check, historian Giovanni Lanfranchi tells Esther Hecht

international symposium entitled Capital Cities: Urban Planning and Spiritual Dimensions, held at the Bible Lands Museum Jerusalem.

The king received important services from the scribes in return for his munificence. The Assyrians believed the welfare of the kingdom depended on the king's punctilious moral behavior and correct worship of the gods, so it was necessary to keep referring to the texts

for the details. Also, since dreams were regarded as portents, interpreting the king's dreams was crucial.

We know of a similar situation from Genesis 41, in which Joseph's correct interpretation of the pharaoh's dreams catapults him to a position of power. In Assyria, the scholars had to say whether a given dream concerned state affairs or the correct behavior of the king.

In his own inscriptions, King Assurbanipal (reigned 669 to 631/627 BCE) talks about personal dreams sent by the gods. Once, for example, he dreamed Ishar gave him approval and would march at his side in battle. Many events could hold clues to the future, the Assyrians believed. In a letter, the king asks scholars the meaning of a mongoose passing between his legs while he was walking in the garden.

The very worst portent, however, was a certain configuration of the stars and planets. A lunar eclipse when neither Jupiter nor Venus was visible meant the king was about to die. To avert the divine wrath he had to perform a peculiar ritual: He had to take on the life of a humble laborer - a gardener, for example - while a substitute king was enthroned and then killed in his stead. Only after 100 days could the king return to his throne.

The scribes were also the keepers of the knowledge of the god Assur, "a curious god, with no personification, who appears in Assyria in the ninth century BCE. He is the nation and the town, and very different from contemporary gods," Lanfranchi said. His sole function was to help the king, and

the scribes didn't want everyone to know about him.

According to Lanfranchi, the greatest and most dramatic expansion of Assyria - making it the largest empire in the Near East up to that time - occurred in less than 100 years, between the middle of the eighth and the middle of the seventh centuries BCE. Though we generally associate Assyria's achievement with its well-trained army and inflexible imperialistic attitude, it couldn't have been accomplished without an efficient state organization and a highly specialized bureaucracy.

Nineveh (just north of today's Mosul, in northern Iraq) was the last capital of this empire. This city, which the biblical prophets referred to as a "whore" and "cunning witch," was a great cosmopolitan metropolis, Lanfranchi said. Of the 50,000 texts found there, 6,000 are connected with official bureaucratic activities. Nearly half, however, are scholarly treatises, dealing with such subjects as mathematics, medicine and language, as well as the predictive sciences, astrology and extispicy (divination from animal entrails).

Most of the texts are labeled as belonging to the Palace of Assurbanipal, or as being the king's private property. Some colophons (labels) say the texts were written by the king himself. These include letters from the king to the gods; there are even replies from the gods to the king.

Though Assurbanipal was learned, in collecting texts he was following royal tradition in Assyria, Lanfranchi said. And like previous kings, he probably acquired some of them as war booty, mainly from Babylon. Many theories have been put forth as to why Assurbanipal created such an extensive royal library. Lanfranchi doesn't dismiss them out of hand, but suggests that Assurbanipal's purpose was probably to update and collate the existing body of knowledge.

Once Assyria and Babylonia were joined, he wanted to join their scholarship too. The new editions became the highest scholarly standard. But they also represented the conquest of Babylonian culture. Lanfranchi concludes that Assurbanipal's patronage of scholarly work led to culture and art being intimately connected with the art of government.

What the kings left behind

INSTEAD of affixing huge donors' plaques to the temples they built, the kings of the ancient Near East inscribed their dedications on tablets and buried them in the walls. Their concern was that they be remembered in the future, especially by later generations of kings. Now we are that future.

For us, the inscribed tablets are time capsules from the distant past, telling us how those monarchs saw themselves and their relations with their gods. Cone-shaped, hexagonal and barrel-shaped, they are among the items on show in a fascinating exhibition at the Bible Lands Museum Jerusalem.

Jerusalem - A Capital for All Times, Royal Cities of the Biblical World displays eight great capitals of the ancient Near East, which have been reconstructed in historically accurate models. According to exhibition curator Joan Goodnick Westenholz, the cities selected met five conditions: They are historically important, have been excavated, had a relation to the Bible, are connected to the history of this area, and had defined boundaries.

Ur, Nineveh, Babylon, Susa (Shushan): The names conjure up ancient, mythic mystery and splendor. These capitals also had well-developed trade relations, social systems, religions and literatures. And they left behind rich archives, giving us insights into government and society in each, but also shedding light on the origins of the Israelites' language, culture and religious beliefs.

Ur is an excellent example. According to Marcel Sigrist, of the Ecole Biblique et Archeologique Francaise de Jerusalem, "It is fortunate for us that the scribes of 2000 BCE were so enthusiastic about recording everything that happened in their office, since their labors have given us so much information about their society."

Besides intriguing texts, the magnificent artistic items include two creatures - the snake dragon and the storm god - portrayed in brilliantly colored tiles, from the Ishtar Gate of Babylon. Of the eight cities, Akhetaten (Egypt, mid-14th century BCE) is the one that can be most fully reconstructed because it was the capital of the pharaoh Akhetaten for

only 15 years. He built it to worship a single god, the Aten, and no one built over it.

Among the finds there, the name "Jerusalem" appears in cuneiform letters written by the king of Jerusalem to pharaohs Amenhotep III and Amenhotep IV (Akhetaten). The models are built to a scale of 1:500, depicting each city at a specific time to give insight into one period. The exhibition progresses chronologically, beginning with Ur and ending with David's Jerusalem (600 BCE). Ur and Jerusalem, relatively small cities, are shown in their entirety.

But only parts can be shown of the larger cities, like Nineveh, which the Bible describes as being so big it would take three days to walk across it. The exhibition catalog, in English, has contributions by Israeli researchers and scholars from around the world and is a rich introduction to the ancient Near East. The post-ed explanations of the exhibits, in English and Hebrew, are clear and useful.

But best of all is to see the displays with a museum guide. English and Hebrew tours are available daily. The exhibition is scheduled to run until December 31. For all the splendor of the exhibits, a visitor can't help but be reminded of the conclusion of Shelley's poem, "Ozymandias":

*Nothing beside remains, Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away.*

Of the eight great capitals, only Jerusalem exists today. The answers to how and why the other stars of the ancient Near East expanded and then imploded hold important lessons for our own future.

-E.H.



The cuneiform inscription on a statue of a worshipper dedicates the statue to the goddess Ninsubur. (Bible Lands Museum)

Albanian 'vowed virgins.' Born women, they are the men about the house

STEVE PAGANI
BAJZA, ALBANIA

DEEP in the barren mountain region of northern Albania, a group of women cling to an ancient tradition as old as the blood feuds that have returned to haunt this tiny corner of the Balkans.

When searing poverty, war and bloody vendettas and feuds wiped out the male line of a family, women - sometimes even girls - took control of the household.

They are known as the "vowed virgins" of Albania.

When a girl adopts the mantle of *paqerfamilias*, she cuts her hair short, dresses as a boy and takes on a man's job, which can mean back-breaking work toiling in the fields.

With a fervor similar to that of an order of nuns, the "virgins" stick to the unwritten rule which requires them never to marry or have children.

What surprises the outsider is that the men and village elders in this staunchly chauvinistic society accord the "virgins" all the rights and privileges of fellow males - no bar falls silent when one of the women walks in for a glass of throat-scorching *raki* (local brandy), they negotiate deals on behalf of the family, and they are consulted on village affairs.

Lula Ivanaj is one such woman. At the age of 15, her destiny was laid before her. She willingly accepted her widowed mother's plea to head the family of 10 daughters and one son. The boy was considered too weak to take on the job.

"I am never regarded as a woman but as a man," said Lula, 41, sitting in the one-room home of her elder sister in the rural town of Bajza, 140 kilometers north of the capital Tirana.

"Usually if the men have been killed either through war or blood feuds, then a woman has the

power to take over the defence of the family," said the chain-smoking Lula.

Historic family vendettas and feuds have made a comeback since the communist dictatorship collapsed in 1990, and the Bajza area is serious blood-feuding country.

Lula's sister, Marije, herself a mother of 11 children, and other female family members, wear long dark dresses, black scarves or white headwraps characteristic of the region. But Lula wears a sweatshirt and trousers.

"I've never worn a dress or scarf. At weddings and on special occasions, I put on a suit, shirt and tie," Lula said with a loud laugh, shaking her crop of short, wavy hair.

After years in male company, Lula sits and gesticulates as a man, while her sisters display rural hospitality, offering olives, mutton and bread. Outside, pigs and chickens scratch the earth around fig and plum trees.

"We don't talk about women's subjects. I regard Lula as my brother," said Marije, who had never seen her husband until her wedding day.

Matchmakers had sought Lula as a wife for suitors when she was young, who was originally known as "Lule" but changed her name to the more masculine form of "Lula."

"I used to run away from the house and hide whenever I saw them coming," she said.

Although Lula knows how to cook and sew, she has spent most of her working life driving a tractor. She is now an experienced welder - a job unthinkable for a "non-virgin" in the region - and

hires out welding equipment to supplement a meager income.

Peasants near the town of Bajza turning the soil with hoe and spade for this year's crop of potatoes and livestock fodder acknowledge the existence of the "virgins" with a smile.

They all knew Dilore, who lived nearby in Suk-Dajc, and was thought to be the oldest "virgin" when she died last year at the age of 86.

Some villagers indicated a point beyond the range of gray mountains known as the Albanian Alps where the tradition of "vowed virgins" was believed to have originated.

The trek follows a narrow dirt track clinging to the side of a dizzying steep mountain. The hairpin bends, absence of safety barriers and the proximity of tyre to sharp drop can concentrate the mind of even the most experienced driver.

In Tamare, the main village in the craggy range, locals talk of a place called *Kelmendi*, a community accessible only by donkey or four-wheel drive vehicle, as the birthplace of the "warrior virgin" Nora - a legendary heroine who for a time fought back the Turks in the 17th century.

Folklore has it that a conquering Ottoman pasha wanted Nora of Kelmendi for his wife.

Instead, she stabbed him to death, fled into the hills and, like a latter-day Boadicea, led local resistance against the occupying Turks.

She was eventually caught, but the Turks, acknowledging her status, accorded her the "privilege" of being executed as a man.

Lula recalls the story of Nora of Kelmendi and is proud. "I started my career as a boy and my life will end as a man," she said.

(Reuters)

Crayons are not as innocent as they look

EARTHLY CONCERNS
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

THE US Health Department recently warned once again of the problem of lead in crayons and advised consumers not to buy crayons or colored pencils made in the Far East. Crayons produced in Korea, Thailand, China and some other places in the Orient have far too much lead, which is used as a color stabilizer, to be safe.

Lead - a very toxic substance - is the cause of lead poisoning, which can manifest itself in a variety of forms, some of them hard to detect until the damage to the nervous system is irreversible. This is especially true in the case of children as their nervous systems are in a state of active development. In these circumstances lead poisoning can cause apathy, restlessness, dullness and a definite lowering of the IQ.

Studies have shown that five-year-old children found to have increased levels of lead in their bodies were 70 percent more likely to become school dropouts than were children with very low or negative lead exposure. In some cases exposure is so high that it results in severe neurotoxic symptoms including paralysis and even death.

Lead poisoning did not disappear with the old, lead-lined plumbing that contaminated the water supply, the leaded paints from glazed dishes that contami-

nated food, soldered teapots that contaminated beverages, and the ubiquitous exhaust fumes from vehicles burning leaded gas that poisoned the air around us.

Today's danger threatens not only small children who chew on waxy crayons, but also older children who are prone to lick the tip of the crayon to get a sharper point or a deeper color.

In a series of tests performed by the US government, it was found that more than 70% of crayons from Taiwan and other Far Eastern countries exceeded the permissible levels of lead by as much as 200-300%. The reason is that lead is cheap. And it is easier to get sharp definitive colors in wax-based pencils and crayons if a lead substrate is added, which renders the manufacturing process easier and cheaper.

The tests also covered a wide range of crayons manufactured in the US and in Western European countries, and found that none of the crayons tested showed any sign of lead contaminants. But they were, the testers added, all more expensive than those from the Far East.

Not too many crayons from the Far East are on the market here but there are some, which are

always far cheaper than the familiar American Crayola or some of the well-known European brands. A family with several children in school might look on these crayons as a bargain. And many

parents buy them while traveling abroad, particularly in Greece and Italy.

It's a pity that our Health Ministry has not seen fit to warn the public about the dangers of these coloring aids but it certainly behooves the prudent parent to steer clear of these deadly bargains.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Monday, June 17, 1996

Knesset defers \$50m. guarantee request for IAI's Galaxy plane

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset Finance Committee deferred a request from Israel Aircraft Industries for a \$50 million government guarantee yesterday, saying it first wanted to see the Chief Scientist's evaluation of the project.

IAI needs the guarantee for a deal it is now negotiating with an American firm to produce and market its Galaxy executive aircraft. Under this deal, IAI and the American firm would set up a partnership, which would fund continued development of the plane by IAI. The partnership would have exclusive rights to market both the Galaxy and an earlier IAI executive plane, the Astra.

After the deal was signed, the American firm would provide IAI with \$50 million to fund production of the Galaxy. The partnership would then order eight Galaxy planes from IAI.

IAI would have to deliver the first plane - fully approved by the US Federal Aviation Administration - by December 31, 1998. If it failed to meet this obligation, however, it would have to refund the full \$50 million to the American company. The American firm is therefore demanding a \$50 million bank guarantee from IAI, to ensure that it will be able to get its money back if necessary.

However, IAI's financial problems have made the Israeli banks unwilling to give it such a guarantee unless it is backed by the government. The Treasury therefore asked the Finance Committee to approve a government guarantee, on IAI's behalf.

However, the committee said it did not want to decide on this request until the Industry and Trade Ministry's Office of the Chief Scientist completes its examination of the project.

Union leaders oppose privatization plans

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE Histadrut yesterday convened hundreds of workers representatives from all the government corporations at its Jerusalem headquarters, to coordinate moves against the new government's privatization plans.

Reports yesterday that Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel had been appointed finance minister increased the unions' fears that the government would implement its privatization plans at the expense of the workers.

Histadrut and union leaders said yesterday that privatization has led to the dismissal of hundreds of workers and the violation of the wage and pension rights of those who remain employed.

TAAS-Israel Industries Union chairman Haim Zweig said "privatization has one meaning: dismissals. Privatization so far has not given any worker anything beyond firing, wage reductions and canceling acquired rights and benefits. We, who were elected by the workers, are charged with preserving their rights. In view of the experience in recent years, we will not allow the elimination of organized work-places, the elimination of their representative unions and the inevitable attempt to destroy the Histadrut."

The union representatives approved a document setting out "principles for privatization," which the Histadrut leadership had formulated earlier in the morning.

Histadrut Chairman MK Amir Peretz read out the demands listed in

the document, which include a demand to negotiate the sale of a corporation with its unions and the Histadrut before the tender for the sale of a company is published.

"We also demand that the workers' take part in the company's purchase, that a worker who decides to leave due to the sale will not lose his or her rights, that the collective wage agreements are preserved under the new ownership and that the intentions of the buyers are looked into, to prevent them from buying the corporation, firing all the workers and selling it as real estate," Peretz said.

The Histadrut leadership yesterday decided to form a committee of economic experts and legal advisers to monitor every step of the privatization process.

Business capital growth in '95 slowed to 8 percent

DAVID HARRIS

THE growth in business sector capital yield slowed to 7 percent-8 percent last year, compared to 9% in 1994, the Central Bureau for Statistics reported yesterday. The 1993 figure was 11%. However, capital yield was higher in the last 12 months than in any year from 1986-90.

Business sector labor productivity grew an average annual 1% between 1990 and 1995, according to the CBS. In 1995, the figure rose 1%-2%, after a drop in 1992-94. Over the last six years, labor input rose 7%, with productivity up 8%.

The labor costs for production units as paid by manufacturers in the business sector rose 1% in 1995, after increases of 2%-3% in the previous two years, and after a fall in labor costs in 1990-92. Over the last six years, labor costs per production unit reduced by an average of 1%.

Last year, there was a 76.00% increase in the number of Israelis employed in the business sector, in addition to the high number of foreign workers brought into the

country. This offset the decrease in workers from the territories. As a result of the various changes in the workforce, the total hours worked in the business sector increased by 7%, against the 9% increase in domestic productivity.

In agriculture, including forestry and fishing, productivity increased 19% in 1995, following smaller rates of growth in the previous two years. The CBS said this was as a result of narrow-related fluctuations.

The cost-of-living increment accounted for 55% of salary increases last year.

In the industrial sector (excluding diamonds) there was an increase in productivity by 4%. Productivity was down last year in the construction sector, while there was a 14% increase in labor input. As with the business sector, there were increases in numbers of local and foreign workers, but a reduction in those crossing from Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

Wages in the public sector rose by 6% last year (excluding security services).

Terlad signs deal with Myanmar

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

TERLAD Telecommunication and Electronic Industries, the manufacturer of telecommunications equipment and systems, has signed an \$8.5 million contract with the government of Myanmar (Burma) to provide and install digital public switchboard systems.

According to the agreement, Terlad will supply four TMDX-100 switchboards. The switchboards will be installed in Rangoon, the capital, in Mandalay, the country's second largest city, and in two cities in the south.

General manager Bezael Levin said the contract is in line with the company's efforts to increase

exports and expand its activities worldwide.

After the system's installation, an additional 5,000 telephone lines will be added to the 55,000 lines Terlad has already supplied Myanmar. Today, there are a total of 160,000 phone lines in Myanmar.

Terlad's first agreement with Myanmar was signed in 1984 as part of a World Bank project. Since then, the company has signed several agreements, including a \$9m. contract about one year ago.

In 1995, Terlad's sales increased 14% to NIS 1.26 billion, half in exports.

Council petitions against Ben-Gurion 2000

The Lod Valley Regional Council yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice against various aspects of the Ben-Gurion Airport 2000 project. The petition demanded that four members of the National Planning Board be barred from participating in meetings to approve the plan, because they were actively involved in preparing it, and therefore have a conflict of interest. The petition also charged that the environmental impact study for the plan was faulty, and should therefore be rejected.

Evelyn Gordon

Gov't ordered to raise Nazi victims' allowance

EVELYN GORDON

THE compensation that the government pays to Nazi victims will from now on be 23.76% higher, in response to a High Court of Justice ruling.

The increase, which was approved by the Knesset Finance Committee yesterday, will be retroactive to March 1, since the High Court ruled on the matter at the end of February. According to the Treasury, the increase was coordinated with organizations representing the victims.

However, the Finance Committee asked that the Treasury appoint a neutral party to examine the change and make sure that it really fulfills the requirements of the court's ruling.

who moved here after 1952 could sue, and usually received much more money than those paid by Israel.

The ruling was in response to a petition by MK Avraham Hershson (Likud) and a group of Nazi victims, which charged that those who receive compensation from the government under the 1952 reparations agreement with Germany are discriminated against with respect to those who receive compensation directly from Germany. Under the reparations agreement, Germany paid Israel a lump sum in exchange for a promise that no Nazi victim living in Israel would sue Germany directly for compensation. However, those

In February, the court ruled in the petitioners' favor, saying the reparations agreement had deprived the victims of the right to sue without their consent. While the court did not obligate the government to equalize the payments totally, it did order the government to increase them in light of the fact that the victims had been deprived of this important right.

Following this ruling, the Treasury decided to raise the payments by 23.76%, from NIS 25.25 to NIS 31.25 for each percentage point of disability. Thus someone defined, for instance, as 20% disabled, who would formerly have received NIS 505 a month, will now receive NIS 625.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Kibbutz Mishmar David labels to Russia: Migvan Printing, of Kibbutz Mishmar David, recently signed an annual agreement with a Russian food manufacturer to export eight million labels at a total value of NIS 600,000. Migvan specializes in the development and production of labels on paper, cloth, cardboard, metals, and plastics. The company said the export order follows the factory's NIS 850,000 investment in advanced printing equipment. *Galit Lipkis Beck*

American Express to compensate dissatisfied clients: American Express yesterday announced plans to give 500 points to each customer who does not receive adequate service. The credit card company which started to operate in Israel about a year ago, said 30% of its cards issued are Gold cards, while the remainder are Business cards. *Galit Lipkis Beck*

Bank Hapoalim launches promotion campaign: Bank Hapoalim has started a campaign to promote the bank as one suited to its customers requirements. The title of the campaign is "Different banking for different people." *Galit Lipkis Beck*

Banks' Friday closure at anti-trust court

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Israel Consumer Council plans to appeal to the Anti-Trust Court against the commercial banks' plans to close branches on Friday.

The council said that the Anti-Trust Law is intended to prevent cartels, and that the banks' intention to close on Friday is a cartel arrangement, which prevents free competition in the banking sector.

Last week the banks' appealed to the Anti-Trust Court with a request to approve the bank's move to a five-day work week, which would mean closing the

branches on Fridays. The court is expected to approve the request on condition that it is not harmful to the general public.

Council chairman Zvi Ramot said the banks' plan is in fact damaging the quality of bank services, since a high percentage of the public does its banking on Fridays, which is a day off for many people.

The banks are expected to close the branches on Friday within a few months of receiving the court's approval. All of the banks' foreign currency trading rooms will remain open Fridays.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patiah (foreign currency deposit rates) (6.5.96)

Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.825	4.750	5.250
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	4.125	4.250	4.500
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.250	1.750	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.900	0.900	0.750

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (14.6.96)

Currency	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	3.17	3.34
German mark	2.122	2.19
French franc	0.822	0.85
Japanese yen (100)	2.885	3.047
British pound	1.249	1.28
Swiss franc	2.887	2.826
Swedish krona	0.483	0.491
Norwegian krona	0.486	0.48
Danish krone	0.591	0.590
Finland mark	0.891	0.709
Canadian dollar	2.071	2.382
Australian dollar	2.546	2.576
S. African rand	2.748	0.758
Belgian franc (10)	1.218	1.040
Austrian schilling (10)	3.078	3.045
Italian lire (1000)	2.082	2.285
Slovenian dinar	—	4.30
European pound	—	0.92
ECU	4.058	4.075
Irish punt	5.132	5.187
Spanish peseta (100)	2.310	2.42

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

PRIME Date: 13.6.96 Purchase Price: 108.97 Redemption Price: 107.53	PRIME Date: 13.6.96 Purchase Price: 149.23 Redemption Price: 147.02
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Ministry of Health

Board of Examination for Medical License

According to the State of Israel Physicians' Regulations 1988, the examination for medical license will be held at 08:00 a.m., on JULY 22, 1996, at Ganei Hata'aruha, Rokach Blvd., Tel Aviv.

The examination can be taken in the following languages: Hebrew, English, Rumanian, Spanish, Italian and Russian.

The examinees will be asked to present their original Identity Card plus a photo of the Identity Card.

Prof. Joseph G. Schenker
Chairman of the Board of Examination
According to the Israel State Regulations 1988

Ministry of Health

Board of Examination for Medical License for Internship

According to the State of Israel Physicians' Regulations 1988, the examination for medical license for internship will be held at 08:00 a.m., on JULY 22, 1996, at Ganei Hata'aruha, Rokach Blvd., Tel Aviv.

The examination can be taken in the following languages: Hebrew, English, Rumanian, Spanish, Italian and Russian.

The examinees will be asked to present their original Identity Card plus a photo of the Identity Card.

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Key Representative Rates table with columns for currency and rate.

Jobs, currency, and future set for EU summit

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - European Union leaders will focus on jobs, the single currency and the EU's long term future this week...

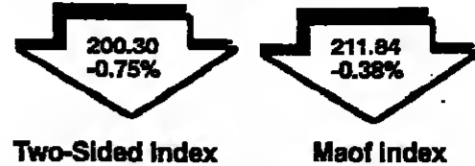
fight against joblessness the centerpiece of its end-of-presidency summit. "Even if unemployment remains within... the domain of member states, Europe can't be indifferent..."

the precursor of a European central bank, on the relations between those currencies inside a monetary union and those outside.

Inflation fears push stocks down

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

FELICE MARANZ



STOCK indexes fell yesterday amid concern inflation was increasing after Friday's report that the consumer price index had risen 1.7%.

ICL subsidiary Dead Sea Works, which rose 0.75%. Declining shares on the Maof Index included Teva, which fell 2% following declines in its American Depository Receipts...

Share indexes fell more than 1.5 percent in early trading, before investors began to speculate that prime minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu had asked Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel in serve as finance minister.

In late trading, shares rebounded, with the Maof Index closing down 0.38% at 211.84 and the Two-Sided Index falling 0.75%, to 200.30.

"People were talking about Frenkel as finance minister," said Eli Nahum, head of trading at the Tel Aviv investment firm Zannex Securities. "Frenkel's appointment would be the best thing for the economy."

Of 991 shares trading across the exchange, nearly four times as many shares fell as rose. Some NIS 70.1 million worth of shares changed hands, NIS 1.4m. above last Thursday's level.

Gaining shares included Elite Industries, which rose 3%. Investors are optimistic that the company's new chief executive officer, Amikam Cohen, will raise profits, said Nahum.

Other gaining shares included Tadiran, which rose 2.5%; Israel Chemicals, which rose 1% and

was good for the economy and for the market," said Nahum. "The first thing on his agenda will be a lower inflation."

Also offsetting losses, said Nahum, was an announcement that Israel's M1 money supply fell an unexpected 0.7% in May from April, according to figures released by the Bank of Israel.

"The inflation increase is seen as prompting the Bank of Israel to lift interest rates. Pessimism prompted by the CPI was offset by the reports about Frenkel's appointment, said Nahum. Frenkel has repeatedly called for budget cuts and emphasized the need for a 'tight stance' when it comes to monetary policy."

"Frenkel's appointment will be good for the economy and for the market," said Nahum. "The first thing on his agenda will be a lower inflation."

Other gaining shares included Tadiran, which rose 2.5%; Israel Chemicals, which rose 1% and

was good for the economy and for the market," said Nahum. "The first thing on his agenda will be a lower inflation."

Precious metals mixed on silver bounce-back COMMODITIES ROUNDUP

PRECIOUS metals futures closed mixed on Friday, as silver posted a huge bounce up a half hour before the close, led by fund buying and short covering.

Much of the activity in silver was prompted by Friday's expiration of July options.

The other metals followed silver back in its late-day rally. August gold closed up 60 cents at \$387.10; July silver closed up 12.2 cents at \$5.172. July platinum closed up 10 cents at \$395.80, and September palladium closed up \$1.30 at \$132.05.

Copper trading was roiled on Friday by Sumitomo Corporation's surprise announcement that it had lost \$1.8 billion in unauthorized copper trades made by Yasuo Hamanaka (aka "Mr. Copper"), who has been considered the largest central player and the most respected broker in the field for the past 10 years.

Hamanaka was the former head copper trader for the Sumitomo Corporation. He was reported to have received large credit lines that enabled him to hide losses from his employers for many years.

The losses were thought to have occurred over a 10-year period, with the majority occurring during the last year.

Copper is the third most-used industrial metal in the world and is used in nearly every automobile segment, including automobile wiring, homes, consumer appliances, and other electrical components, and traders are concerned about the stability of copper prices as a whole in view of Hamanaka and Sumitomo's demise.

High grade copper futures closed sharply lower after hanging on at lower levels for most of the day. A decrease in London Metal Exchange (LME) copper stocks went largely ignored, being dwarfed by the Sumitomo news.

July high-grade copper futures closed down 1,030 basis points at \$0.9385.

Grain futures closed lower, pressured by favorable weather forecasts for both corn and wheat, sources said.

Corn settled sharply lower in the nearby contracts, while deferred futures closed slightly lower to lower.

Wheat futures settled lower amid forecasts for favorable weather in both northern Plains spring wheat areas and in the southern Plains where the winter wheat harvest is under way.

July wheat futures settled 83/4 cents lower at \$4.96 per bushel and July corn futures settled 81/4 cents lower at \$4.685 a bushel.

Soy complex futures closed mixed, with soybeans mostly lower, soy meal mixed and oil lower. The dominant force in the market was an improving weather outlook, especially for eastern areas of the Corn Belt, which cast a negative price tone over the market, sources said.

July soybean futures settled 3/4 cent higher at \$7.6975 a bushel.

Cotton futures settled mixed in Friday's session, with the July contract ending weak but off the daily lows on late short covering.

The day's lower action was primarily the result of follow-through technical weakness in the market, sources said.

Potential US-China trade disputes, high domestic cotton stocks, and forecasts for higher Chinese cotton production was reported to have weighed on the market as well.

July settled at 76.29 cents, a loss of 78 points.

(Courtesy of Michael Zwebnr, CommStock Trading Ltd.)

Court registers firm carved from Gdansk shipyard

GDANSK, Poland (Reuters) - A Polish economic court on Friday registered a new firm, Nowa Stocznia Gdanska Sp zoo, which managers of the failing Gdansk shipyard have formed in a bid to salvage part of their enterprise from bankruptcy.

But workers spurned the management plan to set up a new company to lease 60 percent of Stocznia Gdanska SA's assets and hire 3,000 of its 7,000 workers before the debt-burdened yard files for bankruptcy by the end of next week.

World metal traders concerned about Sumitomo sells

TOKYO (Reuters) - World copper market traders were braced yesterday for a nervous week over the Sumitomo rogue trading scandal, with uncertainty rampant about how the giant Japanese trading house would try to minimize its losses.

Japanese traders said the key factor in the market in the coming week would be if Sumitomo put out a rash of sell orders to protect itself from the huge long positions it holds on copper contracts.

Sumitomo Corp revealed last Thursday it had lost \$1.8 billion over a decade from unauthorized copper trades, primarily by its star trader Yasuo Hamanaka.

Hamanaka was once dubbed "Mr. Five Percent" because his trading team was believed to control five percent of the world's copper trade. He was so influential that copper prices fell by about 25 percent in recent weeks due largely to persistent rumors he had resigned from the firm.

Sumitomo president Tomiichi Akiyama said on Friday the company wanted to do all it could to stabilize copper prices, but traders said the company also had to look after its own interests and those of its shareholders.

Trading in Sumitomo shares was suspended all day on Friday in Tokyo and the bourse will give its judgment today.

However most analysts believe the company's share price is unlikely to be hard hit because

the trading house can easily absorb the loss through its assets, including the company's own stock.

Sumitomo has signaled it does not plan any major market moves in the copper market as the company comes under scrutiny from regulators in Japan, Britain, and the US.

"We hold positions in the market, but have no immediate plans to liquidate the loans. We hope the copper market will stabilize and regain order," Akiyama told a news conference last Friday when the company announced its losses.

But most traders said the comment was not strong enough to cool down growing fears of heavy selling orders from Sumitomo.

Sumitomo still holds many long orders and some are options-related. A key point is when and how they will liquidate them, one Japanese metal trader said.

"Copper prices may crash again if they start liquidating long positions. The world metal market will remain very nervous in the near term," another metal trader said.

Sumitomo estimates its \$1.8 billion loss on the latest prices of the world copper market. But a company spokesman said that if the market fluctuates wildly, the losses may grow further.

Black Yugo economy cost state \$5b.

BELGRADE (Reuters) - Yugoslavia's black economy, booming under sanctions, cost the state around \$5 billion over the past five years, Gorana Bozovic of the Yugoslav Statistics Institute said on Friday.

"The negative effects are enormous and cannot and should not be neglected," she told Reuters.

The black economy flourished under the oil and trade sanctions imposed on rump Yugoslavia, comprising Serbia and Montenegro, for its involvement in Bosnian war.

The embargo, together with the loss of markets after the break-up of former Yugoslavia and hyperinflation of 60 percent a day in

1993, crippled the Yugoslav economy and pushed its gross domestic product to half its pre-war 1991 level.

The institute's figures take no account of the government's control of a significant part of the black market and its ability to levy border taxes on imports which broke sanctions.

Swiss government offers bill on telecoms reform

BERNE (Reuters) - The Swiss government asked parliament on Friday to approve a bill liberalizing the domestic telecommunications market in step with similar

plans in the surrounding European Union. The Federal Council, or cabinet, presented the draft to parliament where the approval process is expected to take about one year.

The bill, meant to take effect at the same time as the EU liberalizes its communication market on January 1, 1998, would lift monopoly rights over telecommunication networks and services now held by the state agency PTT.

PTT's telecommunications activities would be partly privatized in a joint stock company. Telecom PTT, and the postal business would be split off into a new state agency.

The goal of this reform is to equip the Post and the Telecom PTT with the entrepreneurial abilities necessary for success amid increasingly tough national and

international competition," a cabinet statement said.

It said an open market was needed, to guarantee modern telecommunication services and strengthen Swiss companies for competition on the world market.

The bill foresees the federal government retaining a controlling stake in Telecom PTT, while a minority would be sold to private investors.

Full privatization of Telecom is not anticipated as this would require a change to the Swiss constitution, a very lengthy process.

Switzerland took a first step to loosening its telecommunications law in 1991, allowing private companies to offer some kinds of data transmission. But the PTT still holds a monopoly over most voice transmission and the cellular phone network.

Ferruzzi looks to the future with new name

MILAN (Reuters) - Italy's troubled industrial holding group Ferruzzi Finanziaria signaled a further stage in its recovery on Saturday by hinting at no more losses for 1996, while strengthening its board and even changing its name.

Shareholders of the debt-ridden group voted at its annual shareholders meeting to break the last link with the Ferruzzi family and change its name to Compagnia di Partecipazioni Assicurative e Industriali Spa, or the abbreviation Compart.

The sprawling group which almost collapsed under a mountain of debt in 1993 along with its sister company Montedison, said profits were ahead of its internal plan and added three leading Italian industrialists to its executive board.

The board is to be expanded to eight from five, with Italians Ruggero Brunori, Loris Frascara and Giuseppe Gazoni Frascara joining along with the Spanish Duke of Huescar, Giorgio Rossi left the board to become the chairman of Gemina.

Ferruzzi chairman Luigi Lucchini told shareholders this marked a new beginning for the company, with all three Italian industrialists having shares in the group and looking to buy further supportive stakes.

Ferruzzi is still 70 percent owned by a group of rescue banks, and Lucchini boded this was a move to create a strong group of stable shareholders to assist in its rescue plan. Lucchini and a group of investors already have a 1.5 percent stake in Ferruzzi with similar aims.

The once all-powerful Ferruzzi family lost command of the group in 1993, after banks

stepped in following the discovery of huge hidden losses at the company.

The Ferruzzi, until the collapse of the firm one of the wealthiest and most glamorous families in Italy, were forced by creditor banks to cut all links with the foods-to-chemicals holding giant in 1994.

"The radical but not physiological changes seen in the firm represent a definitive break with the past," Lucchini said.

Shareholders questioning the choice of a rather uninspiring name were told by Lucchini that the name Compart already existed within its chemical company Montecatini.

Ferruzzi through its 32 percent stake in Montedison has interests in agro-industry, energy, pharmaceuticals, and chemicals and has direct stakes in insurance and building firms.

Group managing director Enrico Bondi said the company had expected to stay in the red last year, but had instead turned in a \$7.1 million net consolidated net profit.

He hinted that Ferruzzi, at the parent company level, would not be in the red in 1996 after losing 350 billion lire in 1995.

The group revealed that its leading shareholder was Mediobanca which had increased its stake earlier this year to 15.26%, while among Mediobanca's traditional allies Credito Italiano had 9.36%, Banca di Roma 9.22%, and Banca Commerciale Italiana 3.51%.

The former leading shareholder and Italy's biggest bank San Paolo, which had disagreed with Ferruzzi and wanted it sold off, held a 8.25% stake.

TEL AVIV STOCKS table with columns for Multi-sided trading and Two-sided trading, listing various stocks and their prices.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK logo and text.



NICE TRY - Denmark goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel (r) tackles Mario Stanic of Croatia during last night's game. Croatia scored a penalty kick following the foul.

Croatia first team to qualify

LONDON (AP) - Juergen Klinsmann scored twice and set a European Championship record on his belated Euro 96 debut for Germany yesterday. But even he was outshone by Croatia's Davor Suker.

Igor Stimac shot against the Danes' crossbar and Brian Laudrup hit the Croatian post a minute later before AC Milan star Zvonimir Boban slid in to turn a low cross from Suker into the net 10 minutes from the end.

Before 50,000 fans at Manchester United's Old Trafford stadium, Klinsmann became the first player in the history of the European Championship to score in three different tournaments, having netted also in 1988 in Germany and '92 in Sweden.

missed the 2-0 victory over the Czechs because of suspension, struck twice in the final 14. The German captain collected a pass from the right, spun past a defender and struck the ball almost nonchalantly past Russian goalkeeper Dmitri Kharin with the outside of his right foot.

Lehman leads at US Open

BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI (Reuters) - Tom Lehman, seeking his first major golf title, overcame an early stumble to take a two-shot lead into the final nine holes of the US Open championship at Oakland Hills yesterday.

Davis Love and Colin Montgomerie, who both stood at even par through 10 holes, four off the pace. The 37-year-old Lehman began the day with a one-stroke lead over a bunched-up field and promptly fell into a five-way tie with Nobilo, Jones, Love and Woody Austin after a bogey at the first hole, where he drove into the rough.

with his birdie at the second. Lehman posted back-to-back birdies at the sixth and seventh holes to reach four under par for the tournament. Birdies were in abundance on the front side yesterday, but the back nine of the course dubbed the "Monster", and its ferocious final five finishing holes, awaited.

Dodgers turn first triple play since Brooklyn

ATLANTA (AP) - Hideo Nomo pitched six strong innings and the Los Angeles Dodgers turned their first triple play in 47 years Saturday during a 6-2 victory over the Atlanta Braves.

inning. After a single and a walk, Chipper Jones hit a pop to short left that shortstop Juan Castro ran down, making a back-to-the-plate catch. Both runners had broken on the pitch and were easily doubled up.

Cleveland 10, New York 3. Manny Ramirez, Carlos Baerga and Jim Thome homered for visiting Cleveland. Ramirez's homer, a two-run shot off rookie Brian Rockinger, broke a 2-2 tie in the fourth inning and helped Nasty to his American League-leading 11th victory.

CLASSIFIEDS. Contains multiple columns of advertisements for real estate, services, and employment. Includes sections like DWELLINGS, RENTALS, SITUATIONS VACANT, and HOUSEHOLD HELP.

Table with baseball statistics for National League and American League. Columns include Team, W, L, Pct., GB, and various statistical markers.

SPORTS BRIEFS. A column of short news items related to sports, including mentions of Olympic delegations and athletic championships.

Nahum triumphs at national athletics championships

A real contest developed last night on the first day of the 60th Israel Athletic Championships at Hador Yosef between triple jumpers Rogel Nahum and Avi Tayari.

Philip Feingolf won the men's 400 meters hurdles in 52.49 seconds and Olga Dogdakov clinched the women's 400m title in 1:01.10, her personal best.

The women's long jump was won by Rina Turesky with her 5.57-meter jump and the women's high jump went to Marina Shafraon who cleared 1.70 meters.

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Court drops one charge against Haggai Amir

RAINE MARCUS

THE judges in the conspiracy trial of assassin Yigal Amir, his brother, Haggai, and Dror Adani yesterday dropped a charge against Haggai Amir of plotting to kill terrorists released from prison.

The decision came after defense attorney Moshe Meroz argued that a key prosecution witness, Avshalom Weinberg, had himself been charged with plotting to kill Palestinians and therefore could not testify in the conspiracy trial until the end of his own trial.

After some deliberation, Judges Annon Strashnov, Shelley Timen, and Ze'ev Hammer ruled that, without Weinberg's testimony, prosecution evidence against Haggai Amir on this charge was negligible, and thus ordered the charge dropped.

Yigal Amir was then summoned to the stand and denied outright that his brother had plotted to kill Yitzhak Rabin or to harm Arabs. In a long, animated speech with the very smile on his face that became known during his murder trial, Amir succeeded in annoying Judge Strashnov several times, especially when he began delivering political statements.

Amir denied plotting to harm Arabs in the territories or to damage their property. "In fact, I admire the Arabs," he said.

An angry Strashnov interjected

with: "No, you don't hurt Arabs, just Jews."

Amir testified after the remaining prosecution witnesses, ballistics expert Chief Supt. Bernard Shechter, bomb squad officer Supt. Danny Dror, and F-Sgt. Arik Schwartz completed their testimonies. Schwartz was charged in a military court with providing Haggai Amir with ammunition, explosives, and hand grenades, but claimed he had no idea what they would be used for.

"I knew that Haggai's hobby was ammunition and firearms and it was quite natural to pass on such items," said Schwartz, adding that he asked for some items back from Amir.

Regarding Adani, Yigal Amir said he hardly knew him. He had met him during his army service, he said, and had invited him to spend Shabbat with him to introduce him to his sister.

"My brother is a scientist," Amir repeated over and over again, when asked by prosecutor Penina Guy and defense lawyer Shmuel Fleishman about the huge amounts of ammunition and explosives hidden in his family's Herzliya home.

"Since we were kids he invented and improvised ammunition. He

didn't have an aim. He is just crazy about the subject."

Amir insisted that he "checked out" Haggai's intentions several times, before he realized that "he was not serious and I had to act alone."

"One night, a long time before Rabin was murdered," testified Amir, "I took [Haggai] past Rabin's house in Ramat Aviv on the way to a demonstration. He said to me, 'What's this got to do with anything? Drive.' It was then I decided he wasn't serious."

Referring to an improvised silencer made for Haggai by a welder, Amir said they needed it for shooting practice, "so the noise would not disturb people."

"All in all," said Amir, "I wanted to gather people from the university [Bar-Ilan] to make them aware of what was happening to our country following the Oslo A and B agreements, and to organize a kind of civil guard to protect ourselves in the territories. I am not an extremist and I took care to get rid of Kalbanists who wanted to join our group."

Haggai, he added, only organized the logistics and hated the Shabbat gatherings of students and political conversations.

His testimony continues on Wednesday.



Moscow-born airman Pavel Miller, 20, casts his ballot in Tel Aviv yesterday in Russia's historic presidential election. (Dan Oszendyev/Israel Sun)

Public Defender's Office opens

RAINE MARCUS

THE Public Defender's Office was officially opened yesterday by Justice Minister David Liba'i, who installed Tel Aviv University law professor Kenneth Mann as its first director.

The office, located in Tel Aviv's Jewish Agency building, will initially serve the central district. In time, said Liba'i, he hopes anyone in the country who cannot afford a lawyer will be able to be represented by a public defender. Mann first recommended the creation of a Public Defender's Office a decade ago.

At present, courts may appoint lawyers to the indigent, but this is not mandatory except in cases where defendants face sentences of 10 years or more.

However, said Mann, when defendants who cannot afford counsel are charged on counts carrying a minimum five-year sentence, the court also may appoint a lawyer. Liba'i and Mann said the financial resources of a suspect or defendant would be examined before appointing a lawyer.

Lawyers in the Public Defender's Office will receive salaries comparable to those in district attorneys' offices, depending on grade and status, said Liba'i.

"In certain cases, where a case of public interest concerns a defendant who has no financial means, we may ask leading lawyers to lend a hand and contribute their services," said Liba'i.

Ben-Yair files complaints against Zucker with Ethics Committee

EVELYN GORDON

ATTORNEY-GENERAL Michael Ben-Yair filed two complaints against Knesset Law Committee chairman Dedi Zucker (Meretz) with the Knesset Ethics Committee yesterday.

Both complaints related to alleged violations of a law governing MKs' rights and responsibilities. MKs cannot be indicted under this law; instead, the law stipulates that violators will be punished by the Ethics Committee.

The first violation related to Zucker's activity on behalf of a non-profit organization called "Oded and Ili," whose goal is to promote photography. By law, an MK is not allowed to lobby a government body on behalf of an organization, or represent an organization in its contacts with

the government, in exchange for payment.

However, Ben-Yair found that Zucker was on the payroll of "Oded and Ili" during 1993-95, when he helped the organization in its efforts to get funding from the Education Ministry. Zucker received NIS 57,406, not including social benefits, for his first two years' work, and NIS 78,396, not including benefits, for 1995.

In exchange, Zucker, among other things, signed the organization's 1993 funding application to the ministry, and participated in a 1995 meeting with ministry staffers to discuss support for the organization. The organization wound up receiving NIS 600,000 from the ministry for 1995/96.

Ben-Yair also censured the Education Ministry for its role in the affair, saying its handling of the matter was faulty in several respects.

The second violation related to the annual declaration each MK is required to submit regarding his earnings from non-Knesset work. This statement is supposed to list the MK's gross earnings. However, Ben-Yair found that Zucker listed his earnings from the Camera Obscura Art School, which is run by "Oded and Ili," as only NIS 35,000 in 1995, when his actual gross earnings were NIS 78,396.

Zucker declined to comment on Ben-Yair's decision.

Chief rabbi agrees to act on prenuptial agreements

ESTHER HECHT

THE rabbinical establishment has agreed in principle to offer couples the option of signing a prenuptial agreement, which could help many women trapped in broken marriages to obtain divorces more quickly.

In a meeting yesterday with representatives of several women's organizations, Sephardi Chief Rabbi Elishu Bakshi-Doron and Rabbi Eli Ben-Dahan, administrative director of the rabbinical courts, said the rabbinate would offer couples registering for marriage the option of signing a prenuptial agreement. Under the agreement, should the marriage sour, the husband would be obligated to pay his wife a daily sum from the moment they separated to the day he granted a *get* (divorce), unless the rabbinical court decreed otherwise.

The International Coalition of Agunot Rights (ICAR), an

umbrella organization that includes the world's most powerful women's groups, proposed prenuptial agreements several years ago as a way of keeping more women from becoming *agunot* - women who cannot obtain a divorce. There are 16,000 *agunot* in Israel alone, according to Daniela Valency, who heads the Organization to Help Agunot and Those Denied Divorce. The rabbinate claims there are only about 500 Israeli women in this position. Women's organizations estimate there are tens of thousands more around the world.

According to Bakshi-Doron, the rabbis agreed in principle to implement prenuptial agreements "because denial of a religious divorce is a grave problem for world Jewry, too, and we are con-

cerned that couples who can't get divorced according to Halacha are turning to the civil courts."

Another prenuptial solution proposed by Bakshi-Doron was the signing of an irrevocable power of attorney, transferring half the rights to their dwelling to the partner who is denied a *get*.

A rabbinical panel has been established to deal with specific cases of *agunot*, and Ben-Dahan asked that difficult cases be referred to him for personal attention.

The rabbis also welcomed ICAR's proposal that rabbinical court judges participate in a seminar on domestic violence.

ICAR chairperson Prof. Alice Shalvi said that now that the rabbis had accepted prenuptial agreements, additional means must be sought in the spirit of Halacha to reduce the problem of women denied divorce.

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THE United States' largest Protestant denomination resolved at its annual meeting last week to intensify its efforts to convert Jews to Christianity, immediately provoking outrage among Jewish leaders, who called the move offensive and distressing in an era when interfaith understanding seemed to be improving.

The Southern Baptist Convention's resolution, adopted by a near unanimous show of hands in the New Orleans Superdome on Thursday, calls for the 15.6 million-member denomination to "direct our energies and resources toward the proclamation of the Gospel to the Jews."

Earlier last week, the denomination's Home Mission Board appointed a new missionary to the Jewish people, a position vacant for eight years.

Larry L. Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist's Home Mission Board, said that such steps were necessary now because many Christian leaders - Baptists among them - had in recent years abandoned the imperative to proselytize Jews and turned instead to interfaith dialogue.

Laurie Goodstein

"There is a view among some that Jewish people, because they were the sons of Abraham, they were the chosen people, that they do not need to accept Christ - that if they are just good dedicated Jews that is all that is necessary. That is the view even among some Protestant leaders," Lewis said. "We deny that position and we denounce that position. We believe that all people need a personal vital relationship with Jesus Christ."

He pointed out that since 1867, the Home Mission Board had passed 10 resolutions encouraging evangelizing of Jews.

But as word of the Baptists' move filtered out Friday to Jewish leaders and Christians involved in interfaith relations, there was the suspicion that the Baptists had singled out Jews in a way that could be construed as antisemitic.

"It seems to us that this is a direct attack on the Jewish religious tradition," said

Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. "In the last half century we've been moving toward a position where all major faiths recognize the fundamental integrity of each others' beliefs, and recognize that no major faith has a monopoly on truth... This undermines the very heart of that."

Since 1928 when the liberal theologian Reinhold Niebuhr first called for respectful "detente" between Christians and Jews, the major Protestant denominations have gradually adopted the approach that converting Jews is unnecessary, said Rabbi A. James Rudin, national interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee.

The Southern Baptists' moves are "a great setback," Rudin said.

Rev. Franklin H. Littell, a Methodist clergyman and retired professor at Temple University active in interfaith scholarship, called the resolution "insensitive and pretensions," but questioned whether the majority of Christians in America would disapprove.

(Los Angeles Times)

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WEATHER

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Tiberias 22-32
Afula 20-30
Samaria 18-28
Tel Aviv 20-27
Jerusalem 15-27
Beer Sheva 19-31
Dead Sea 27-38
Eilat 24-38

Forecast: Clear to partly cloudy. Slight drop in temperatures.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the ace of spades, nine of hearts, ace of diamonds, and king of clubs.

Price of dairy products up by 6.6%

THE price of milk and dairy products goes up an average of 6.6 percent today, the first price rise in four months, the Agriculture Ministry announced yesterday.

Since the last price hike, the price of cattle feed has gone up considerably, the ministry explained in a statement.

A one-liter bag of milk will now cost NIS 3.27; a liter box of long-life milk, NIS 4.50; 100 grams of butter, NIS 2.17; a container of 9% cottage cheese, NIS 4.10; 9% white spreading cheese, NIS 3.55, and small puddings, NIS 1.24.

During a meeting over the weekend between officials of the Agriculture Ministry, Treasury, and Tnuva, it was decided to implement the recommendations of a committee heading by Prof. Yitzhak Swary.

The Swary report suggested establishing a procedure for automatically updating the price of dairy products on a regular basis. It also recommended that Tnuva reduce its employment costs by two percent, and keep separate accounts for its milk division and its other divisions, so as to prevent one division from subsidizing the other.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Boy missing, feared drowned

DAVID RUDGE

WIDESPREAD searches continued last night for Ashit Beina, 9, who went missing from his home in the Neveh Carmel caravan site, just south of Haifa, on Saturday afternoon.

He left home with a friend, apparently to go swimming at the Kamel beach, opposite Haifa's Matam high-tech industrial zone. The two later split up.

The friend returned home, but Beina did not and his family raised the alarm.

The search, which began on Saturday night, continued yesterday, with the aid of a helicopter, volunteers, and members of the Civil Guard.

Haifa police spokeswoman Supt. Shomrit Minkovski said that there is "growing concern that he may have gone swimming and drowned."

Handwritten text in Hebrew: 03-7512890/1